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### Kansas Speaks 2010 Statewide Public Opinion Survey

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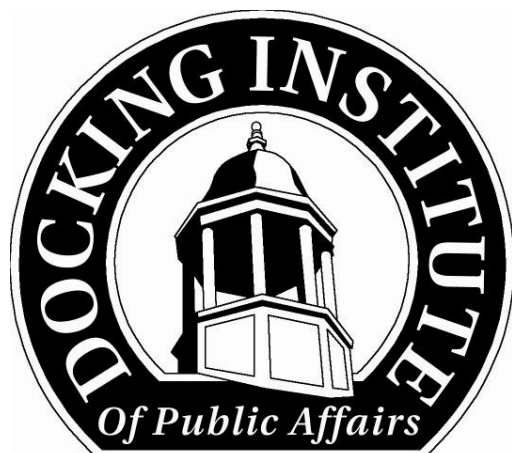
**Kansas Speaks**  
**2010**  
Statewide Public Opinion Survey

Prepared For  
**The Citizens of Kansas**

By

**The Docking Institute of Public Affairs**  
**Fort Hays State University**

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**Mission:**

To Facilitate Effective Public Policy Decision-Making.

The staff of the Docking Institute of Public Affairs and its University Center for Survey Research are dedicated to serving the people of Kansas and surrounding states.

# Kansas Speaks 2010



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## Prepared For:

The Citizens of Kansas  
In pursuit of  
**Fort Hays State University's Public Affairs Mission**

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## **Executive Summary**

The Docking Institute of Public Affairs at Fort Hays State University conducted the 2010 Kansas Speaks survey from June 21 to September 17, 2010. A random sample of adult residents of Kansas age 18 and older was surveyed to assess attitudes and opinions regarding various issues of interest to Kansas citizens. The survey finds:

- Over half of the respondents (58.5%) in 2010 said they felt Kansas was either an “excellent” or “very good” place to live. Only 3.3% said Kansas was either a “poor” or “very poor” place to live. Perceptions of the quality of life in Kansas in 2010 were slightly more negative than measured in 2009. There was considerable variation in opinions between respondents’ racial categories, with white respondents being most likely to rate quality of life as at least “good” and African-American respondents being most likely to rate it as less than “good.”
- Only 6.6% of respondents in 2010 said they thought the Kansas economy was either “excellent” or “very good,” while 21.8% said the economy was “poor” or “very poor.” These opinions were consistent across all demographic categories. In 2009, 10.7% rated the economy as “very good” or “excellent,” while only 15.8% rated it as “poor” or “very poor.” The difference between 2009 and 2010 was statistically significant. This suggests an impression among Kansans that the Kansas economy is not as healthy as it was one year ago.
- Respondents tended to report slightly higher levels of satisfaction with Republican leaders’ ideas to improve the Kansas economy than with Democratic leaders’ ideas in 2010. In 2009, satisfaction was slightly higher for Democratic leaders’ efforts to improve the Kansas economy.
- Respondents tended to be more satisfied with the efforts of leaders of the parties with which they self-identified, with those at least leaning toward Democratic identity tending to approve more highly of Democratic leaders and those at least leaning toward Republican identity tending to approve more highly of Republican leaders.



- In 2010, 46.2% of respondents said they were either “moderately satisfied” or “very satisfied” with Governor Parkinson’s ideas to improve the health of the Kansas economy, while 25.5% said they were “not satisfied.” In 2009, respondent’s opinions of Governor Sebelius were significantly different from those of Governor Parkinson in 2010. Opinions in 2009 of Governor Sebelius’ efforts to foster the health of the Kansas economy were more polarized, with respondents being more likely to be either “very satisfied” or “not satisfied.”
- Two thirds (68.3%) of respondents in 2010 said they were at least “moderately concerned” that economic conditions in Kansas threatened their own or their family’s welfare, while two-fifths (40%) said they were “very concerned.” This represents a significant increase in concern compared to respondents in 2009, when only 28.7% said they were “very concerned.”
- When asked about preferences for changes in income, sales and property taxation policy, respondents were most likely to favor keeping the current income (49.3%) and sales tax (45.6%) policies in place. Respondents were most likely to favor decreasing property taxes (51%). Among those who favored raising taxes, most favored increasing sales tax (24.1%), followed by income tax (15.2%). Only 9% favored increasing property taxes.
- The higher the respondent’s level of education, the more likely they were to favor increasing property taxes.
- When asked about preferences for changes on taxation policy for various earner categories, respondents were most likely to favor increasing taxes on large corporations and top income earners and decreasing taxes on small businesses. Most favored keeping current tax policies for the middle class. The most significant change compared to 2009 respondents was a higher percentage favoring increased taxes for top income earners (46.8% in 2010 vs. 41.3% in 2009) and a lower percentage favoring decreasing taxes for top income earners (13.1% in 2010 vs. 17.6% in 2009).
- In 2010, the more strongly respondents self-identified as Republicans, the more likely they were to favor decreasing or keeping taxes on top income earners and large corporations the same. The more strongly respondents self-identified as Democrats, the more likely they were to favor increasing or keeping taxes the same on top income earners and large corporations.

- When respondents in 2010 were asked to rate Kansas state government, only 8% rated state government as “very good” or “excellent,” while 27.2% rated it as “poor” or “very poor.” Compared to ratings in 2009, more respondents in 2010 rated the state government as “fair, poor or very poor.” This tended to be true across all demographic categories.
- In 2010, respondents’ satisfaction with the Governor and with their own state and U.S. legislators varied widely. Satisfaction tended to be lower compared with satisfaction in 2009. Respondents’ satisfaction with the Kansas legislature in general tended to be lower than with their own legislators or the Governor in both years, also decreasing between 2009 and 2010.
- Republicans, as well as Independents leaning Republican, tended to be more satisfied with their own state Senator than Independents and those leaning Democratic. The more strongly respondents self-identified with the Republican Party, the more likely they were to be satisfied with their own U.S. Senator.
- In 2010, over half of respondents (52.7%) favored decreasing state spending, while only 15.2% favored increasing spending. Compared to 2009, respondents were generally more likely to favor lower state spending in 2010. Generally, the more strongly respondents self-identified as Republican, the more likely they were to favor reduced spending. Registered voters were also much more likely to favor reduced spending compared to non-registered voters.
- As in 2009, respondents in 2010 were most likely to say it is “extremely important” for Kansas to devote resources to the development of wind energy, followed by oil and coal. There were only small differences in opinion on energy policy between 2009 and 2010. The more strongly respondents self-identified as Republican, the more likely they were to feel it is important to devote resources to oil and coal development. The more strongly respondents self-identified as Democratic, the more likely they were to feel it is important to devote resources to wind development. Registered voters were also much more likely to feel it is important to develop coal energy than non-registered voters.
- Respondents were somewhat divided regarding their opinions of the degree to which the economic benefits of oil and coal production outweigh concerns of the environmental impact, but most (63.3%) believe the economic benefits of oil production and well over half (59.5%) believe the benefits of coal production outweigh environmental concerns. Support for oil and coal development is even stronger in 2010 than in 2009.

- The more strongly respondents self-identified as Republican, the more likely they were to agree that the economic benefits of oil and coal production outweigh concerns of the environmental impact. The more strongly respondents self-identified as Democratic, the more likely they were to disagree.
- Respondents were highly supportive of having a state law that requires Kansas citizens to provide proof of legal residence to any law enforcement officer who asks for the proof, with 69% saying they would at least “somewhat support” and 54% saying they would “strongly support” such a law. Only 18.4% of respondents said they would oppose such a law. The more strongly respondents self-identified as Republican, the more likely they were to support such a law.
- When asked about support for state spending for social services, almost half (46.4%) favored increased spending, while only 7.5% favored decreased spending. Independents and those leaning Democratic were more likely to favor increased spending, while those leaning Republican were more likely to favor keeping spending for social services at the current level. Respondents with household incomes of less than \$60,000 were more likely to favor increased spending, while the percentage favoring decreased spending was highest among those with household incomes of \$60,000 and more.
- Respondents were asked about possible misconceptions regarding the new federal healthcare legislation. One-fourth (24.9%) believed incorrectly that all Americans would now be required to purchase their own healthcare insurance, while over one-fifth (22.3%) believed incorrectly that the federal government will now provide health insurance to all those uninsured. However, over half (52.7%) correctly indicated that neither of these misconceptions are true.
- When asked about assumptions regarding changes in household healthcare costs resulting from recent federal healthcare legislation, two-thirds (68%) of respondents said they believe healthcare costs would be higher, and one-third (33.9%) believed they would be significantly higher. Only 4.8% believed household healthcare costs would be lower due to the legislation. Generally, the more strongly respondents self-identified as Republican, the more likely they were to believe healthcare costs will be higher. The more strongly respondents self-identified as Democratic, the more likely they were to believe healthcare costs will be lower.
- When asked about the adequacy of the Kansas healthcare system, respondents to the 2010 survey were most likely to say Kansas’ healthcare system needs minor changes (40%). One third (33.8%) believe major changes are needed. Only one-fourth (26.2%) believe

the current system is adequate. The data suggest that Kansans are more satisfied with the state healthcare system now than they were in 2009. The more strongly respondents self-identified as Republican, the more likely they were to feel the current state healthcare system is adequate and less likely to believe it needs major changes.

- When asked about funding for public education, respondents in 2010 were most likely to say they would keep funding for higher education the same and increase funding for K-12. However, almost two-fifths (38.2%) favored increased funding for higher education. Support for funding higher education declined slightly compared to 2009, whereas support for funding K-12 remained essentially the same. The more strongly respondents self-identified as Democratic, the more likely they were to support increased funding for K-12 and higher education.
- More than eighty percent (86.8%) of respondents said they have landline phones in their households, and more than three quarters (78.7%) of them said it was not likely at all that they would discontinue their landline service within the next year.
- The vast majority (86.8%) of respondents said that members of their households use cell phone for personal use only, and 11.1% of cell phone households indicated that more than two adult members in their households use a cell phone. Less than one fifth (18.3%) of respondents from cell phone households said that children in their households use a cell phone.
- In addition to making and receiving calls, the most common use of cell phones among respondents was for taking pictures or videos (52.9%), followed by texting (49.5%) and the alarm function (39.4%). Less than twenty percent use them to listen to music (18.8%) and for the GPS function (16.8%).

## Introduction and Methods

The Docking Institute of Public Affairs at Fort Hays State University surveyed a random sample of adult residents of Kansas age 18 and older to assess attitudes and opinions regarding various issues of interest to Kansas citizens. The survey was administered through both telephone and mail, utilizing an addressed-based sampling technique to facilitate the most representative sample possible. Respondents for which telephone numbers were available were surveyed by telephone. Those respondents who were not able to be reached by telephone, as well as those for whom no phone number was available, were mailed the questionnaire and a self-addressed business reply envelope. The telephone survey was conducted from June 21 to September 10, 2010, when 1,597 households were contacted via telephone. A total of 797 households completed the telephone survey, resulting in a 50% response rate (797/1,597). The survey questionnaires were mailed to 2,325 households on August 11. By September 17, the end of the data collection period, 35 mail invitations were returned as undeliverable, and 205 questionnaires were completed and mailed back to the Docking Institute. The valid population size for the mail survey is thus 2,290 (2,325 – 35), and the response rate for the mail survey is 9% (205/2,290). With a total of 1,002 households completing the survey, the overall response rate is 25.8% (1,002/3,887). At a 95% confidence level, the margin of error for the full sample of 1,002 is 3.1%, assuming no response bias. A margin of error of 3.1% means that there is a 95% probability that findings among the sample vary no more than +/- 3.1% from the value that would be found if the entire population of interest (adult Kansas residents) were surveyed, assuming no response bias. Sample demographics were compared to known Census-based distribution (see Appendix A). The sample matches closely with all Census-based distribution except Hispanic origin and age. The survey had higher response rates among Kansas residents who are non-Hispanic and those over 50. Therefore, the overall population estimates are biased toward the opinions of non-Hispanic and older Kansans.

This report contains eight sections. Each section presents not only descriptive analyses of respondents' answers to each question, but also statistically significant relationships with key demographic variables to see how citizens in various social categories differ in their opinions on various issues. These eight sections are:

- 1) **Overall Quality of life in Kansas.** This section shows how Kansans generally feel about Kansas as a place to live.
- 2) **Economy.** This section shows results to questions addressing various economic concerns to citizens.

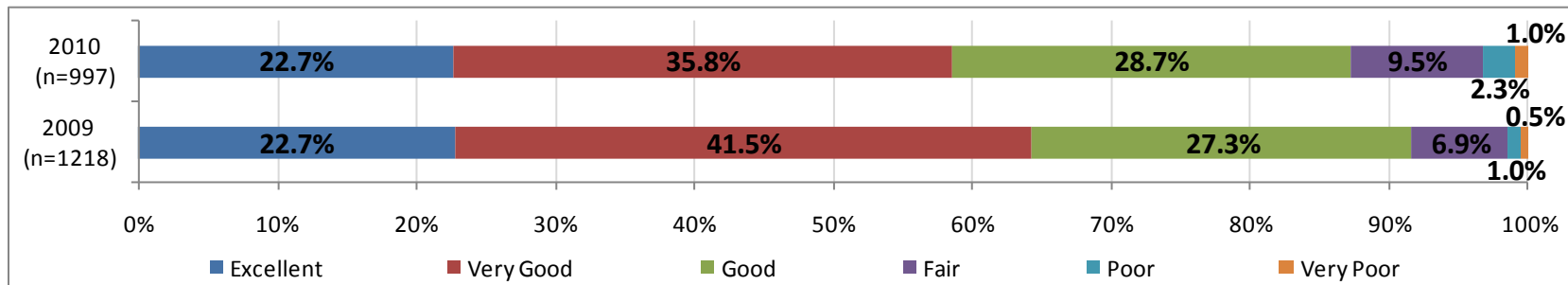
- 3) **Taxes.** This section shows results to opinion questions regarding fair and effective personal and business taxation policies.
- 4) **State Government.** This section presents the results of citizens' ratings of the state government in general, as well as their various state government elected officials.
- 5) **Energy Policy.** A key component of this study is to assess the level of citizen support for public resources being devoted to developing various sources of energy production, including oil, coal and wind.
- 6) **Public Policy Issues.** This section looks at citizens' opinions on several key policy issues, including illegal immigration and social services.
- 7) **Healthcare and Education.** This section presents the results of citizens' opinions on the general state of healthcare in Kansas, as well as knowledge and opinions on the recent federal health care legislation. Opinions about the appropriate amount of state funding for K-12 and higher education are also included in this section.
- 8) **Phone Usage.** This final section presents self-reports of landline and cell phone usage.

### **Section 1: Overall Quality of life in Kansas**

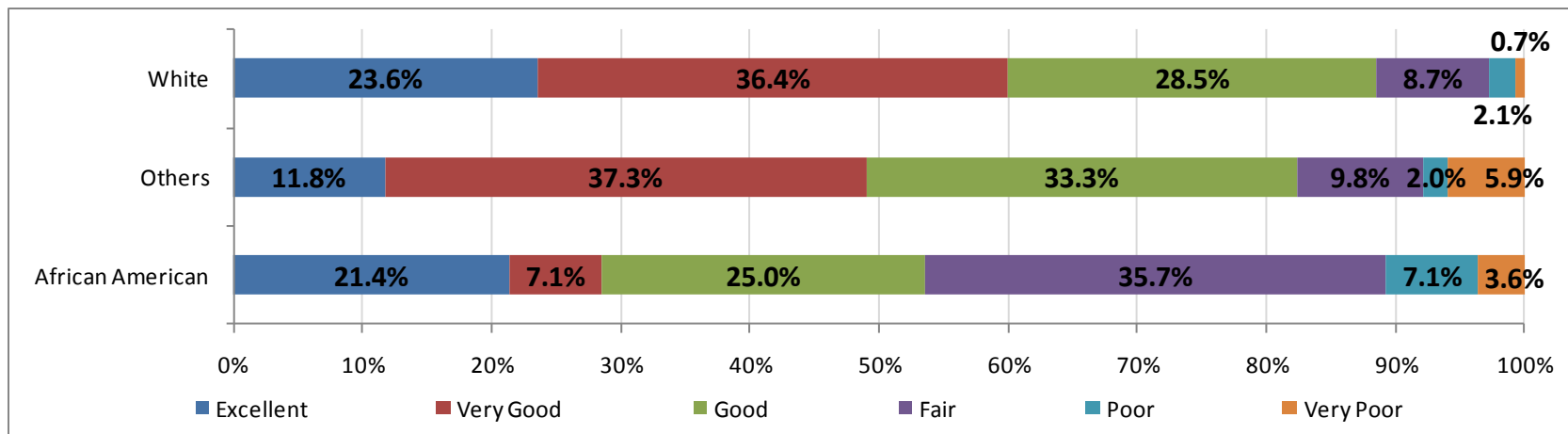
Respondents were asked to rate Kansas generally as a place to live. Among those 997 respondents who provided valid answers to this question, 22.7% said Kansas was an "excellent" place to live, 35.8% felt Kansas was a "very good" place to live, and 28.7% believed Kansas was a "good" place to live. Respondents' ratings in 2010 differ from those in 2009. The percentage of respondents who viewed Kansas as at least a "good" place to live dropped from 91.6% in 2009 to 87.2% in 2010 (Figure 1). The difference between 2009 and 2010 is statistically significant, indicating a 95% probability that such a difference would be found if the entire population of interest was surveyed, assuming no response bias in the survey.

Opinions of the quality of life varied significantly by respondent's race. In year 2010, 60% of white respondents said that Kansas was at an "excellent" or "very good" place to live. Less than a third (28.5%) of African American respondents said so. A higher percentage of African American respondents said that Kansas was a "poor" or "very poor" place to live than white respondents and respondents of other races (Figure 2).

**Figure 1: Rating of Kansas as an Overall Place to Live: 2009 and 2010**



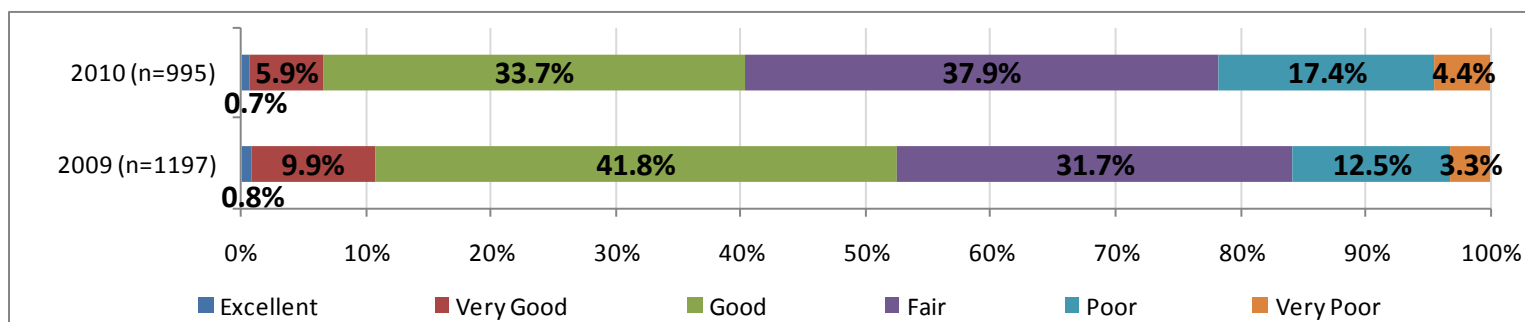
**Figure 2: Rating of Kansas as an Overall Place to Live by Race: 2010**



## Section 2: Economy

When asked to rate the Kansas economy, 40.3% of the 995 respondents who provided valid answers said it was at least “good”, while 21.8% said Kansas had a “poor” or “very poor” economy. Compared with the 2009 survey, the percentage of respondents who thought the Kansas economy was at least “good” dropped by 12.2%, and the percentage who thought the Kansas economy was “poor” or “very poor” increased by 6% (Figure 3). The difference between 2009 and 2010 is statistically significant.

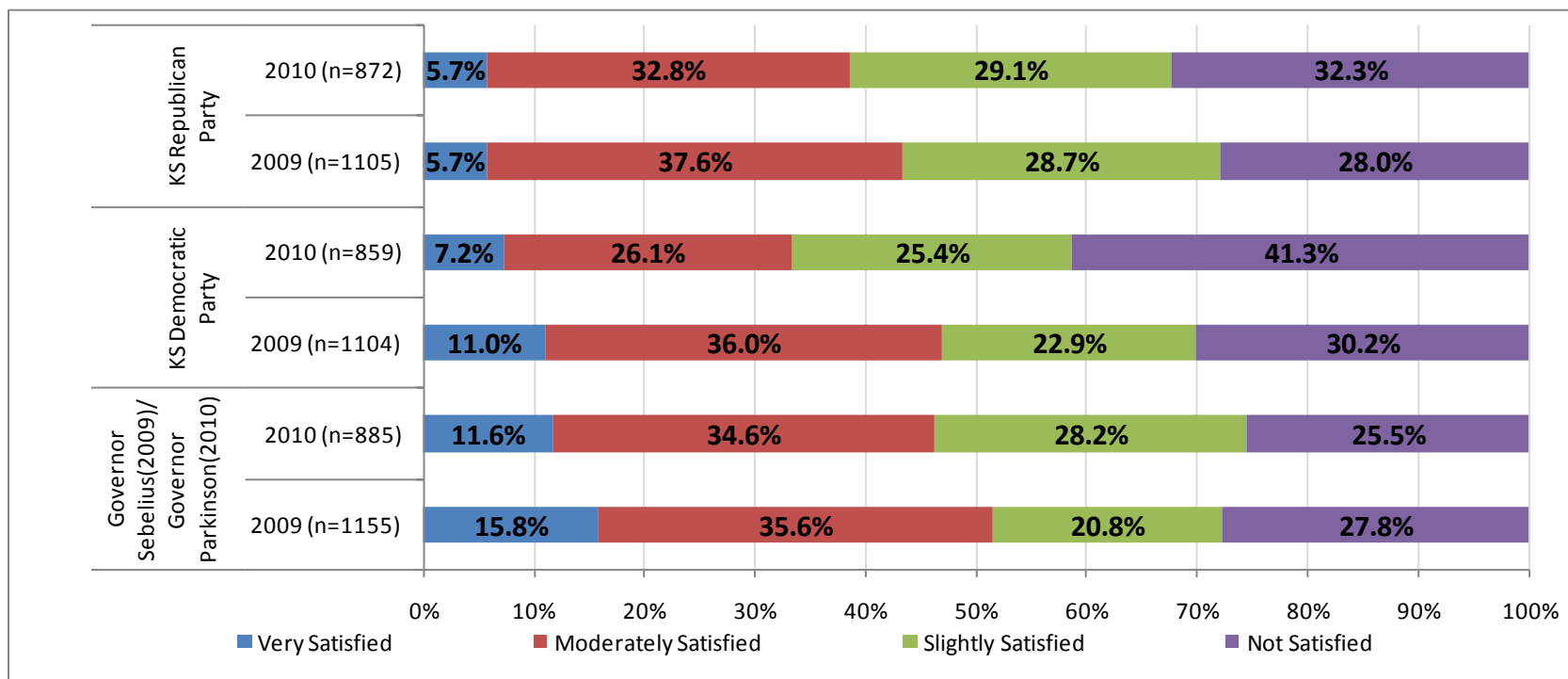
**Figure 3: Rating of Kansas Economy: 2009 and 2010**



The survey continued by asking respondents’ satisfaction levels with Governor Parkinson’s and state party leaders’ ideas to improve the health of the Kansas economy. Respondents’ satisfaction levels with governors’ and state Democratic Party leaders’ efforts dropped significantly in 2010 compared with 2009. In 2010, 33.3% of respondents were moderately or very satisfied with Kansas Democratic Party leaders’ ideas, dropping from 47% in 2009; and 46.2% were moderately or very satisfied with Governor Parkinson’s ideas, dropping from 51.4% with Governor Sebelius in 2009 (Figure 4). Respondents’ satisfaction levels with state Republican Party leader’s efforts in 2010 dropped slightly from 2009. In 2010, 38.5% of respondents were moderately or very satisfied with Kansas Republican Party leaders’ ideas to improve the health of the Kansas economy, a 4.8% decrease from 2009 (Figure 4).

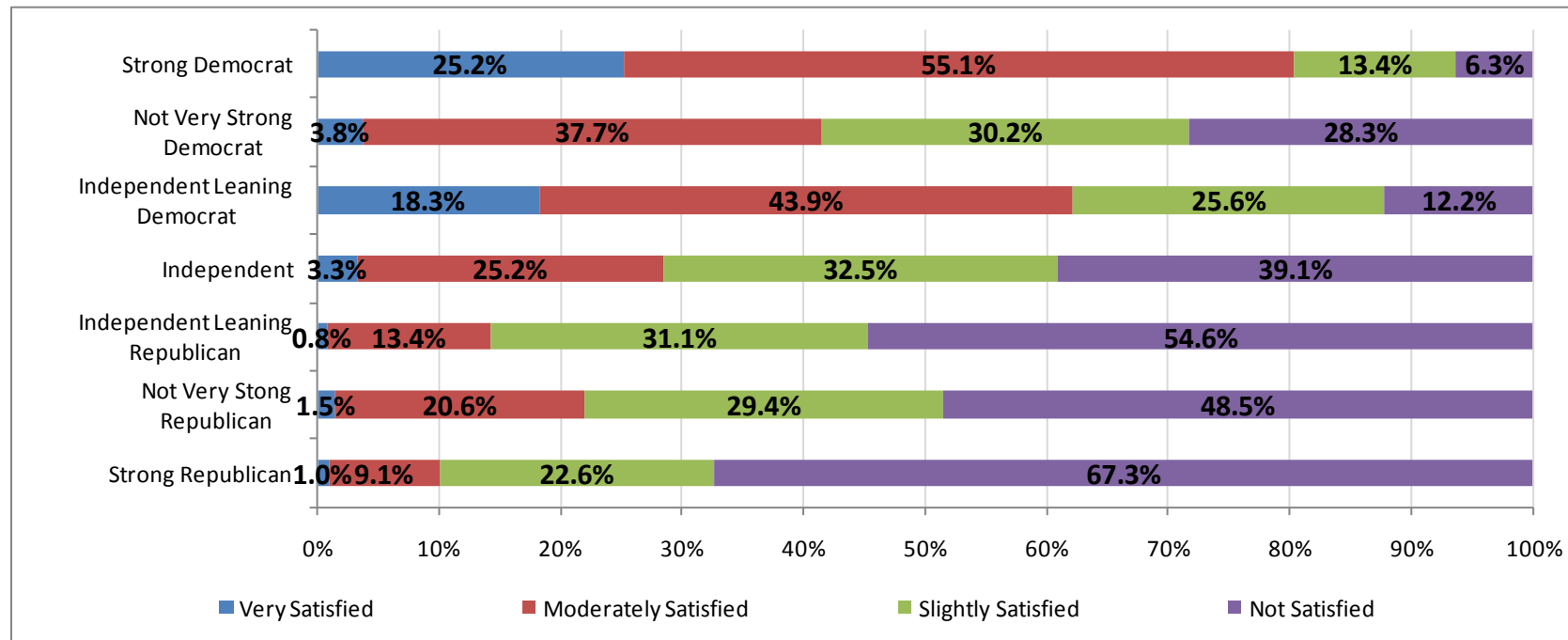


**Figure 4: Satisfaction Levels with Governors' and State Party Leaders' Ideas to Improve the Health of the Kansas Economy: 2009 and 2010**



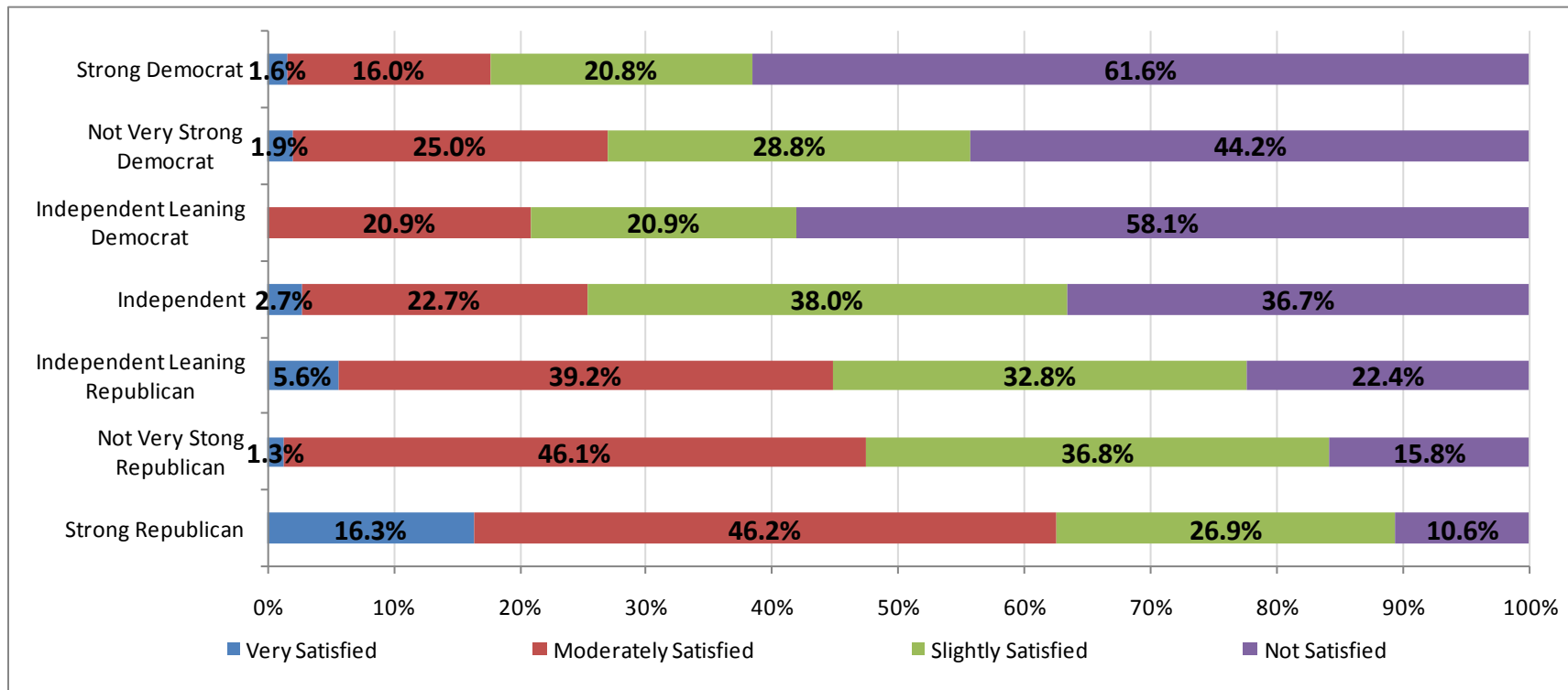
Respondents' party affiliations affected their satisfaction levels with state party leaders' ideas to improve the health of the Kansas economy in 2010. Democrats and independent voters leaning Democratic were more likely to feel very or moderately satisfied with Democratic Party leaders' ideas, whereas Republicans and independent voters leaning Republican were more likely to feel very or moderately satisfied with Republican leaders' ideas (Figures 5 and 6).

**Figure 5: Satisfaction Levels with Democratic Party Leaders' Ideas to Improve the Health of the Kansas Economy by Party Affiliation: 2010**

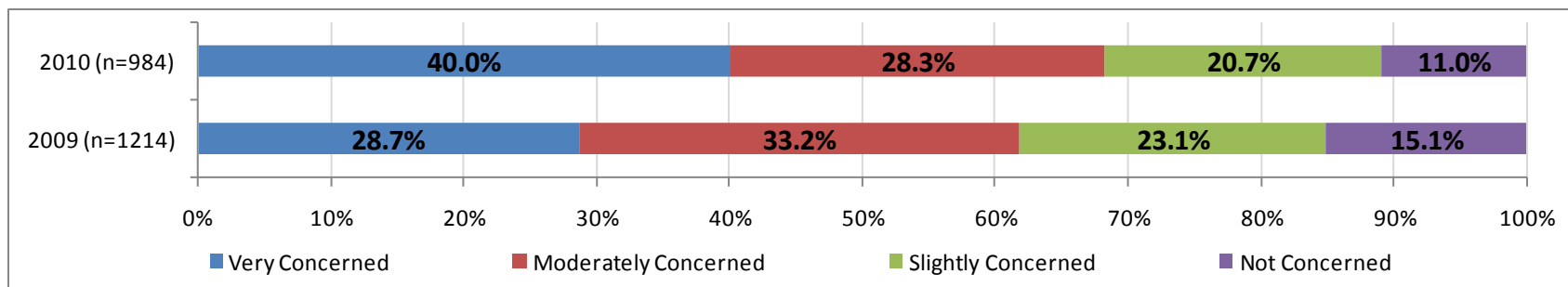


Respondents were also asked how concerned they were that the Kansas economy would seriously threaten their or their families' welfare. A total of 68.3% of respondents were either "very concerned" or "moderately concerned" in 2010. The percentage of respondents who were very or moderately concerned was only 61.9% in 2009. Forty percent (40%) of respondents were "very concerned" in 2010, an 11.3% increase from 2009 (Figure 7). The difference between 2009 and 2010 is statistically significant.

**Figure 6: Satisfaction Levels with Republican Party Leaders' Ideas to Improve the Health of the Kansas Economy by Party Affiliation: 2010**



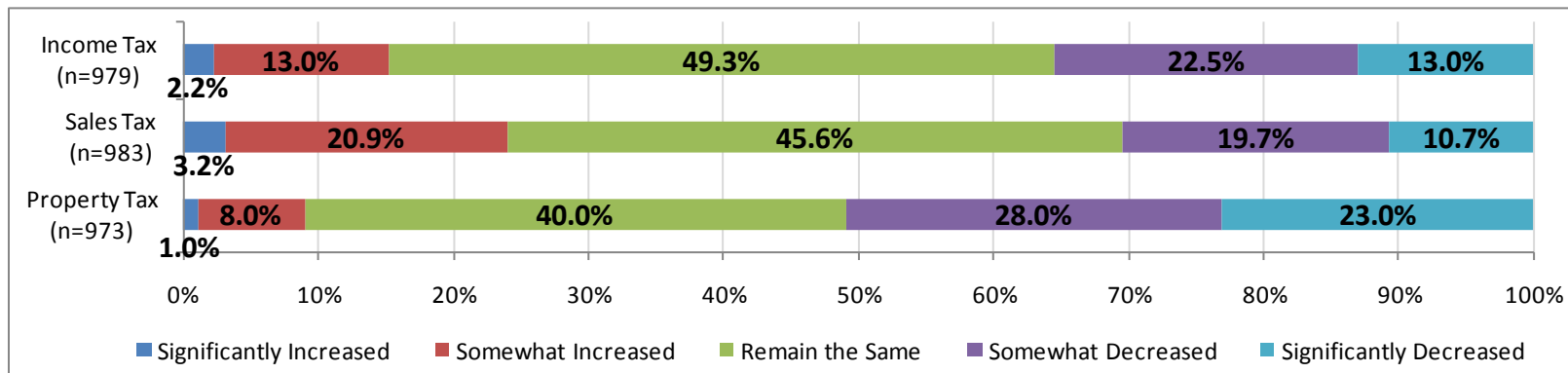
**Figure 7: Concerns with the Threat from the Economic Conditions in Kansas to Individuals' or Families' Welfare: 2009 and 2010**



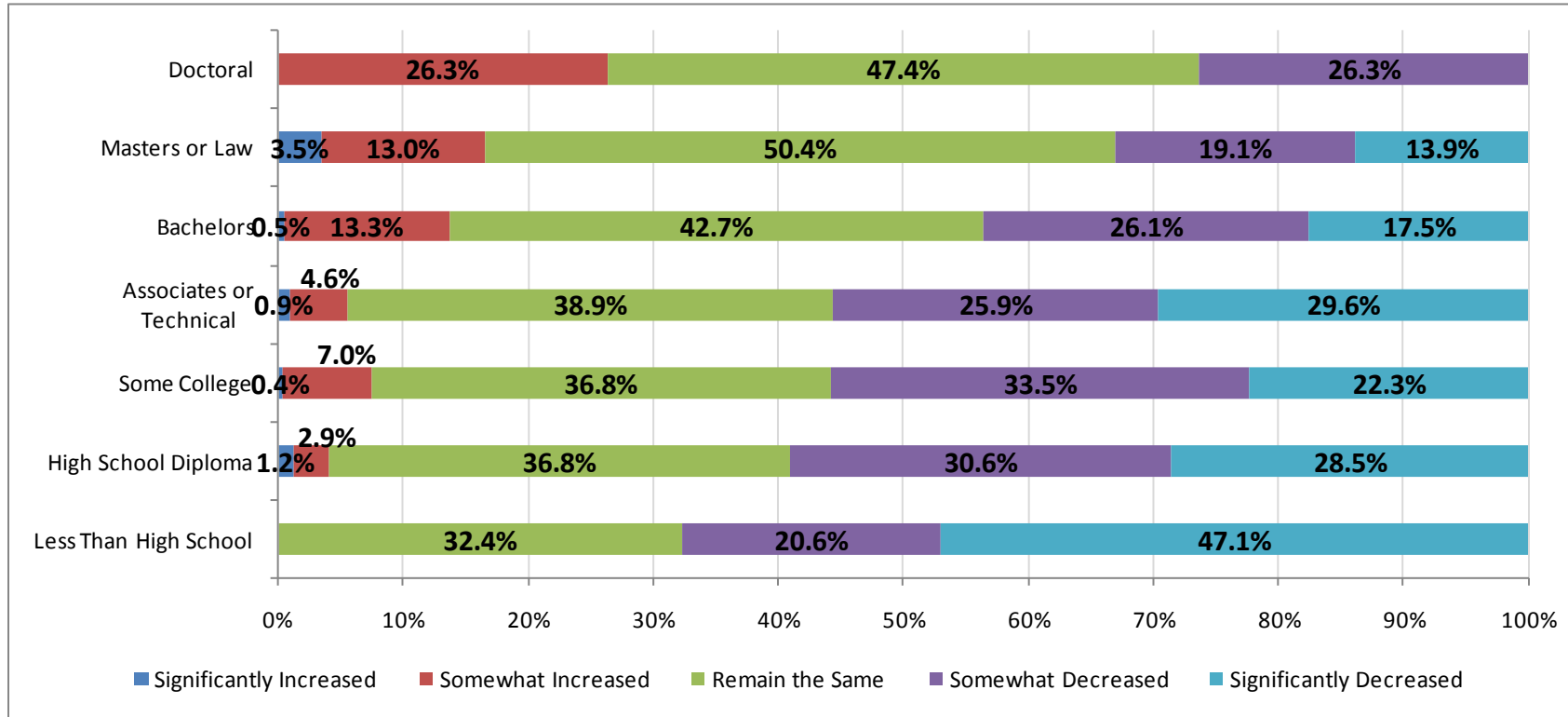
### Section 3: Taxes

Kansas has three primary revenue sources: income tax, sales tax, and property tax. After being asked to think of the current economy, 15.2% of respondents thought that income tax should be significantly or somewhat increased. About a quarter (24.1%) of respondents thought that sales tax should be significantly or somewhat increased. More than half (51%) of respondents thought that property tax should be somewhat or significantly decreased (Figure 8). Respondents' education levels are significantly related with their opinions on property tax changes. Respondents with higher levels of education were more likely to support a property tax increase than those with lower levels of education (Figure 9).

**Figure 8: Opinions on Changes of Income Tax, Sales Tax, and Property Tax: 2010**



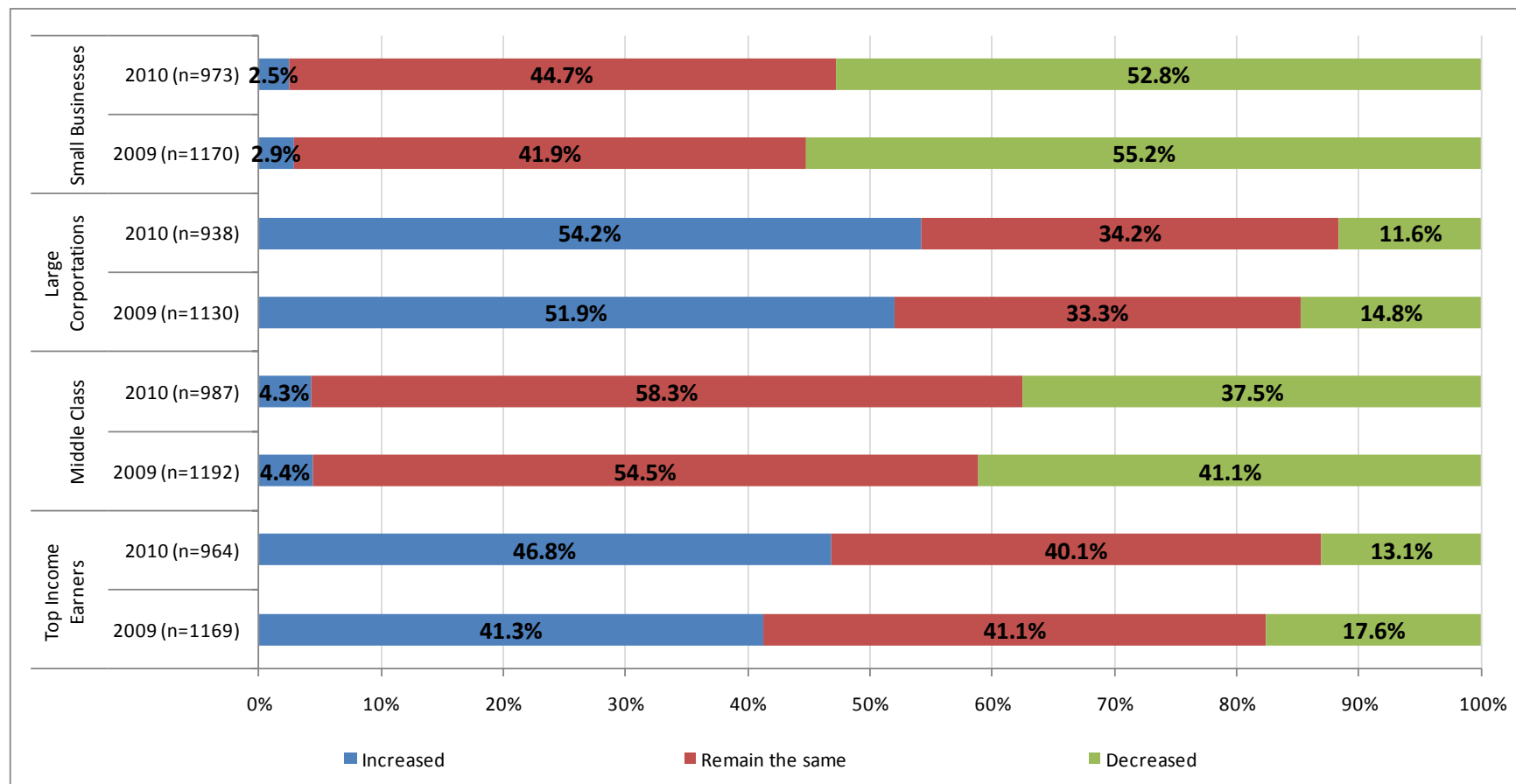
**Figure 9: Opinion on Property Tax Change by Education Level: 2010**



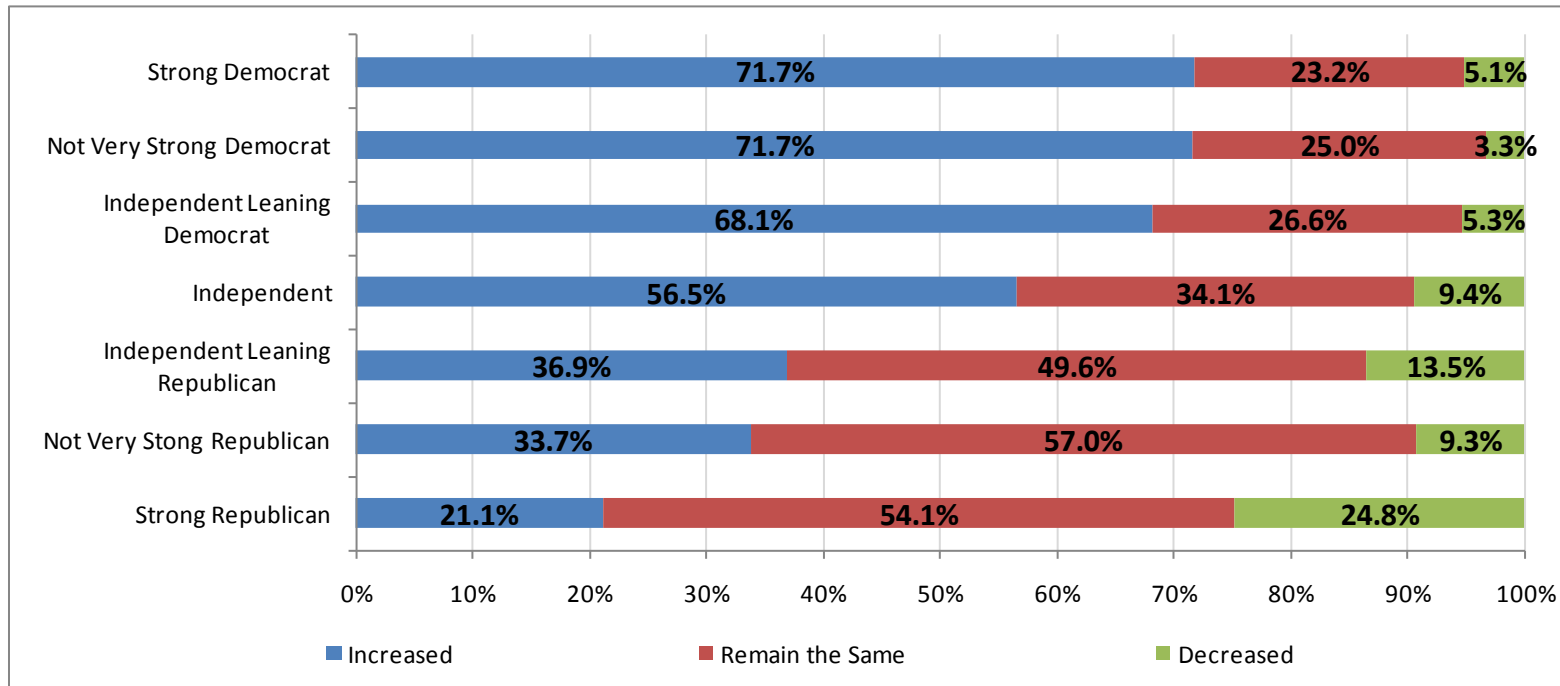
Tax increases and reductions can be targeted at different people or businesses. In 2010, 52.8% of respondents thought taxes on small businesses should be decreased, and 54.2% of respondents believed that taxes on large corporations should be increased. More than one-third (37.5%) of respondents thought that taxes on middle class should be decreased, while only 13.1% said taxes on top income earners should be decreased. Respondents' answers in 2009 were fairly similar to those in 2010. Across all target groups, slightly lower percentages of respondents thought taxes should be decreased in 2010 compared to 2009 (Figure 10). Statistical tests show that only respondents' opinions of

tax change on top earners differ significantly from 2009 to 2010. Respondents' party affiliations are strongly associated with their opinions of tax changes on those different groups. Democrats and independent voters leaning Democratic were more likely to feel that taxes should be increased on the top income earners and large corporations, whereas Republicans and independent voters leaning Republican were less likely to feel so (Figures 11 and 12).

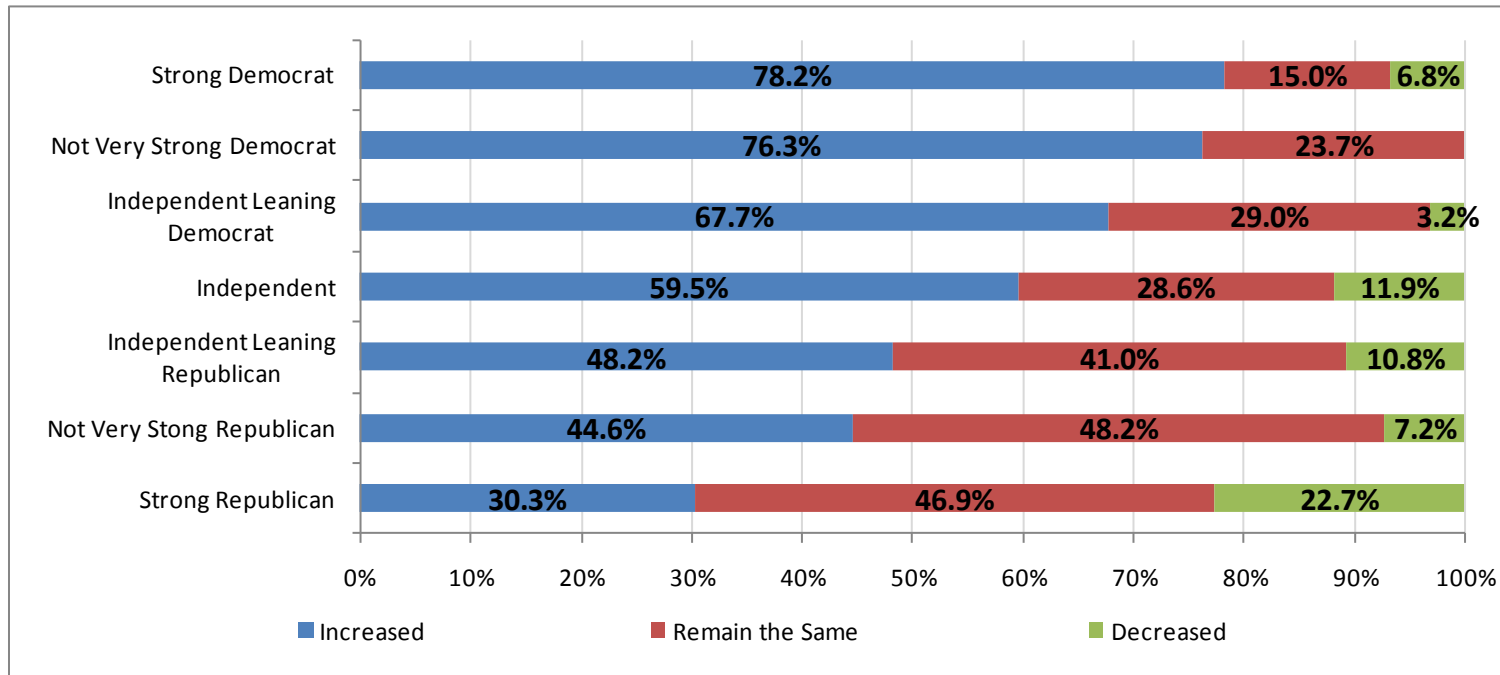
**Figure 10: Tax Changes on Different Groups: 2009 and 2010**



**Figure 11: Tax Changes on Top Income Earners by Party Affiliation: 2010**



**Figure 12: Tax Changes on Large Corporations by Party Affiliation: 2010**



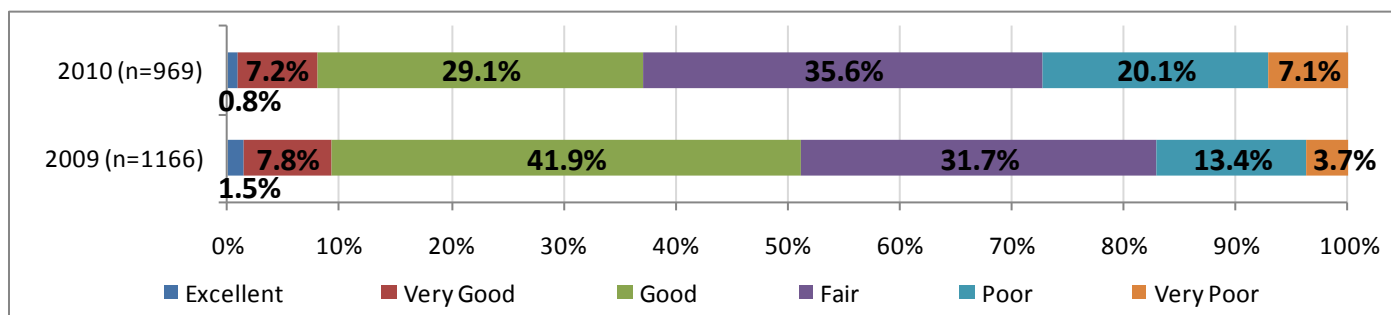


#### Section 4: State Government

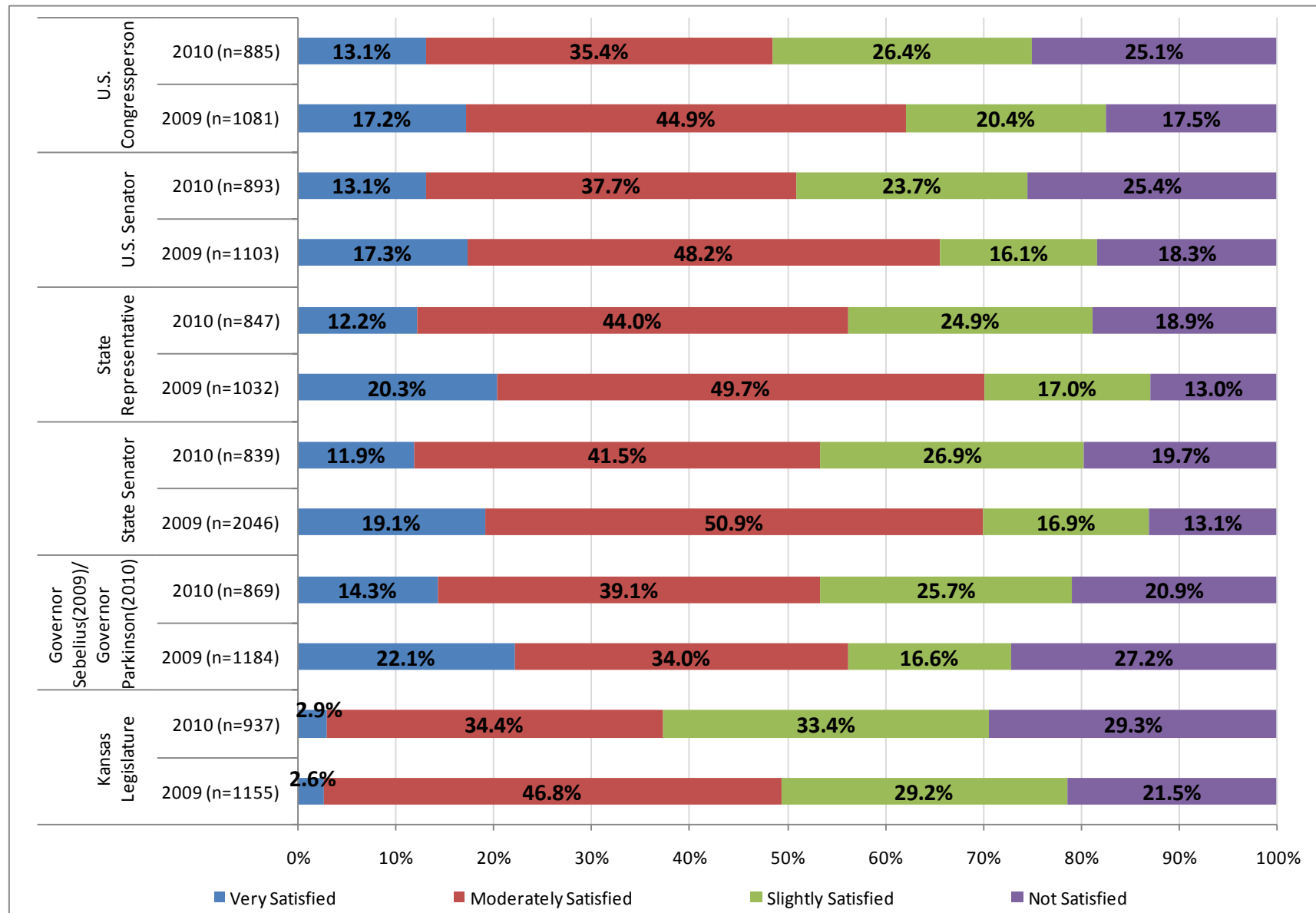
In 2010, 37.1% of respondents felt that the Kansas state government's performance was at least "good," and 27.2% of respondents thought that the state government's performance was "poor" or "very poor." Respondents' ratings in 2009 were significantly different from that in 2010. In 2009, 51.2% of respondents thought the state government's performance was at least "good," and 17.1% thought it was "poor" or "very poor" (Figure 13). This represents a significant decline in approval of state government over the past year.

In general, respondents' satisfaction levels were lower in 2010 than in 2009 with the overall performance of the Kansas legislature and state and U.S. senators and representatives. The differences were all statistically significant. Except for the performance of the Governors, more than 10% fewer respondents in 2010 felt very or moderately satisfied with the performance of the Kansas legislature and political leaders compared to 2009. For instance, 48.5% of respondents felt very or moderately satisfied with their U.S. representatives in 2010, whereas 62.1% of respondents felt so in 2009. In 2009, 70.0% of respondents were very or moderately satisfied with the performance of their state Senator. In 2010, 53.4% of respondents felt so about their state Senator's performance in 2010 (Figure 14). Satisfaction with the Governor tended to move more from the extreme ratings of Governor Sebelius to moderately or slightly satisfied ratings for Governor Parkinson.

**Figure 13: Rating of Kansas State Government: 2009 and 2010**

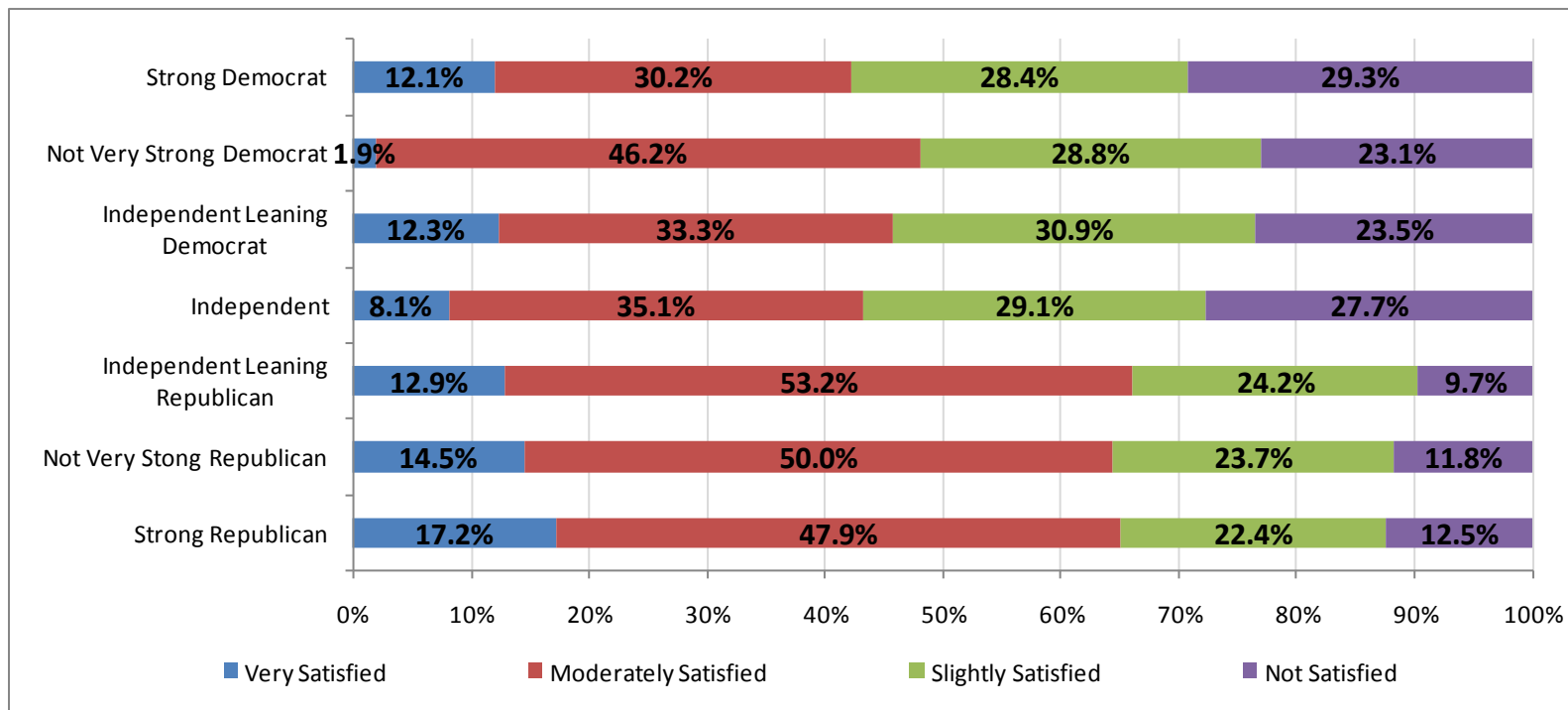


**Figure 14: Satisfaction with Performance of the Kansas Legislature, Governors, and State/U.S. Legislators: 2009 and 2010**

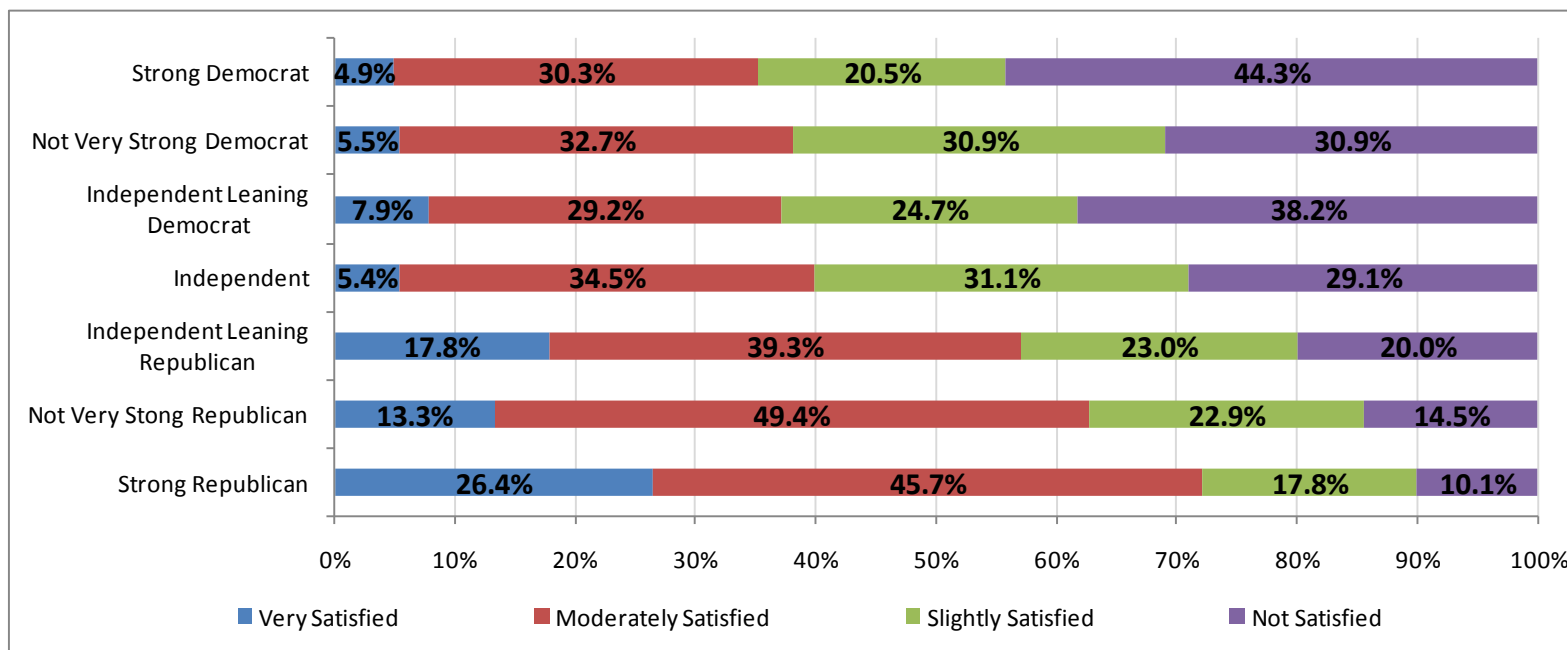


The party affiliation variable had significantly strong relationships with respondents' satisfaction levels. In 2010, Republicans and Independent voters leaning Republican were more likely to be very or moderately satisfied with the performance of their state and U.S. Senators than Democrats and Independent voters leaning Democratic. More than half of the Republicans and Independent voters leaning Republican felt very or moderately satisfied with their state and U.S. Senators, whereas less than half of the Democratic and Independent voters leaning Democratic felt so (Figures 15 and 16).

**Figure 15: Satisfaction with Performance of State Senator in Respondent's District by Party Affiliation: 2010**

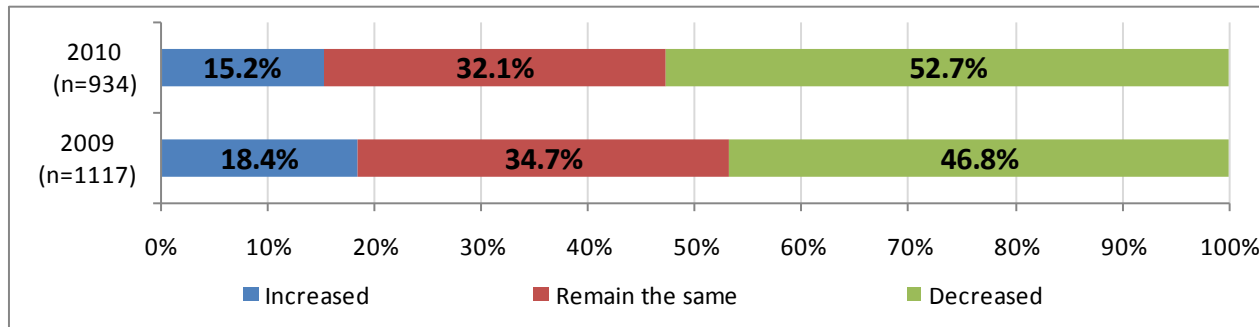


**Figure 16: Satisfaction with Performance of U.S. Senator in Respondent's District by Party Affiliation: 2010**

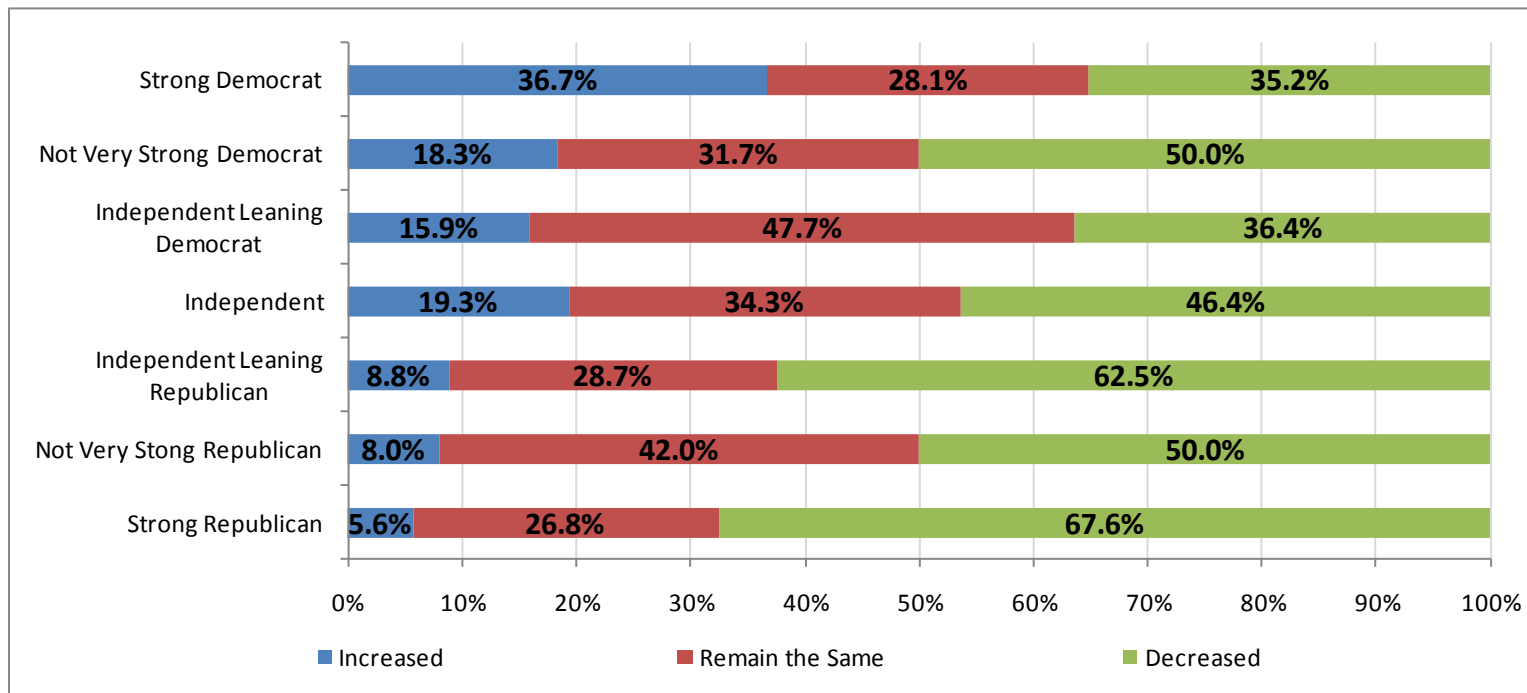


When asked about Kansas government spending, 15.2% of respondents thought it should be “increased,” 32.1% thought it should “remain the same,” and 52.7% thought it should be “decreased” in 2010. In 2009, the percentage of respondents who thought Kansas government spending should be “increased” or “remain the same” was 5.8% higher than in 2010 (Figure 17). The change in respondents’ opinions from 2009 to 2010 is statistically significant. Republicans and Independent voters leaning Republican were less likely to say that Kansas government spending should be “increased” in 2010, compared with Democrats, neutral Independent voters and independent voters leaning Democratic (Figure 18).

**Figure 17: Opinion on Kansas Government Spending: 2009 and 2010**

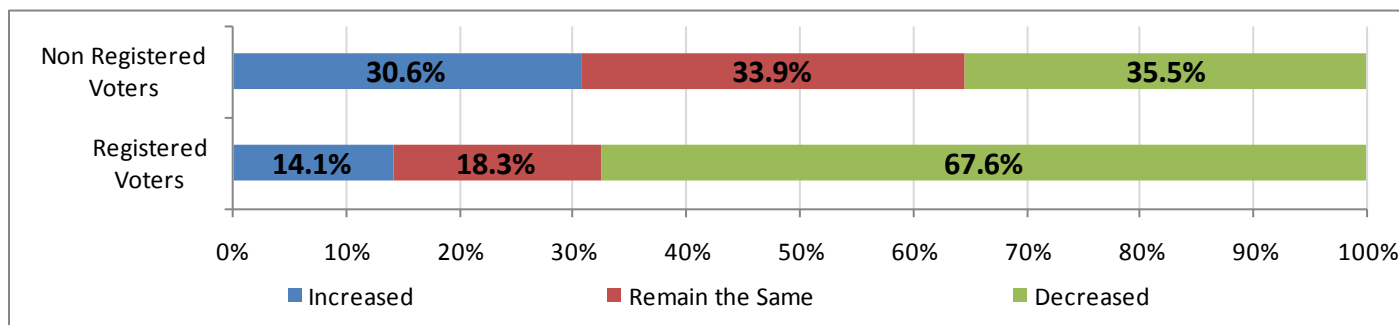


**Figure 18: Opinion on Kansas Government Spending by Party Affiliation: 2010**



Whether respondents were registered voters or not also affected their opinions on government spending. Respondents who were not registered to vote were more likely to say that Kansas government spending should be “increased” or “remain the same,” whereas registered voters were more likely to favor decreased state spending (Figure 19).

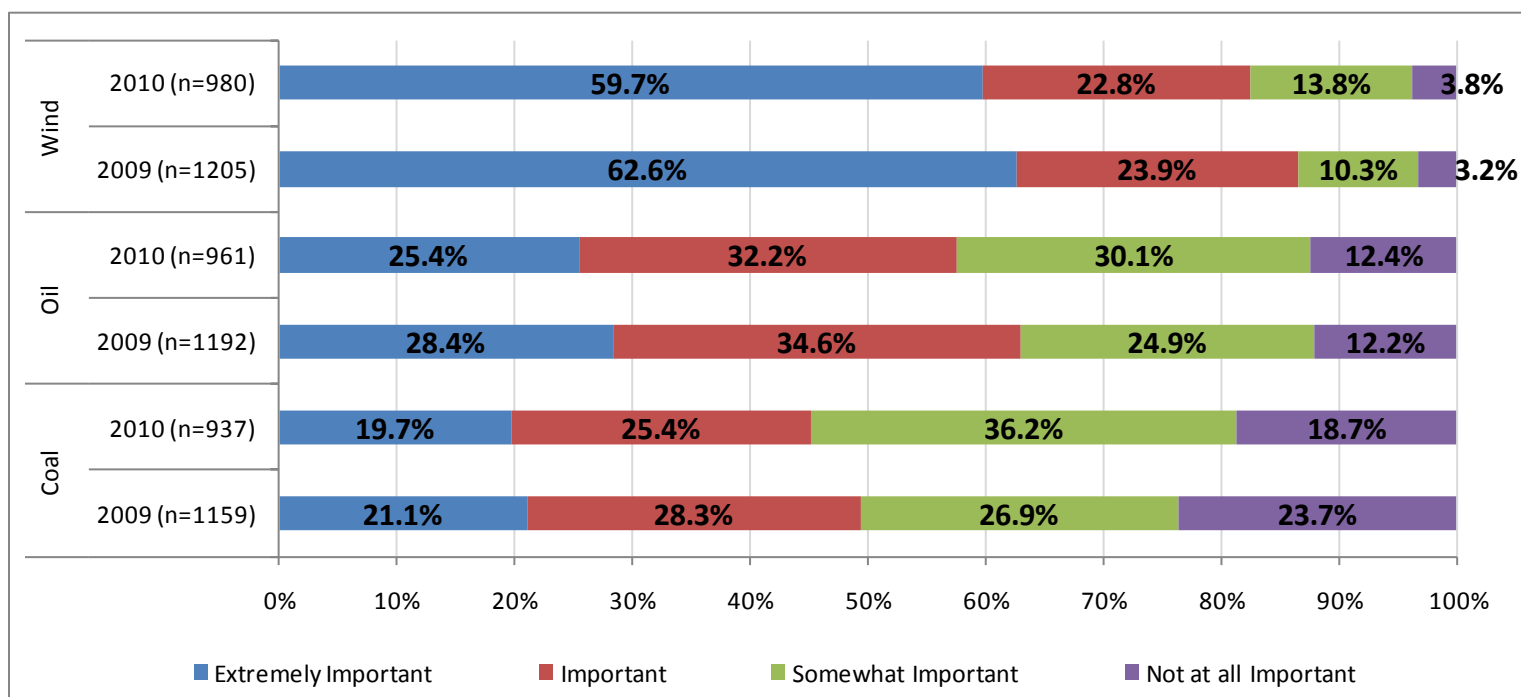
**Figure 19: Opinion on Kansas Government Spending by Registration Status: 2010**



## Section 5: Energy Policy

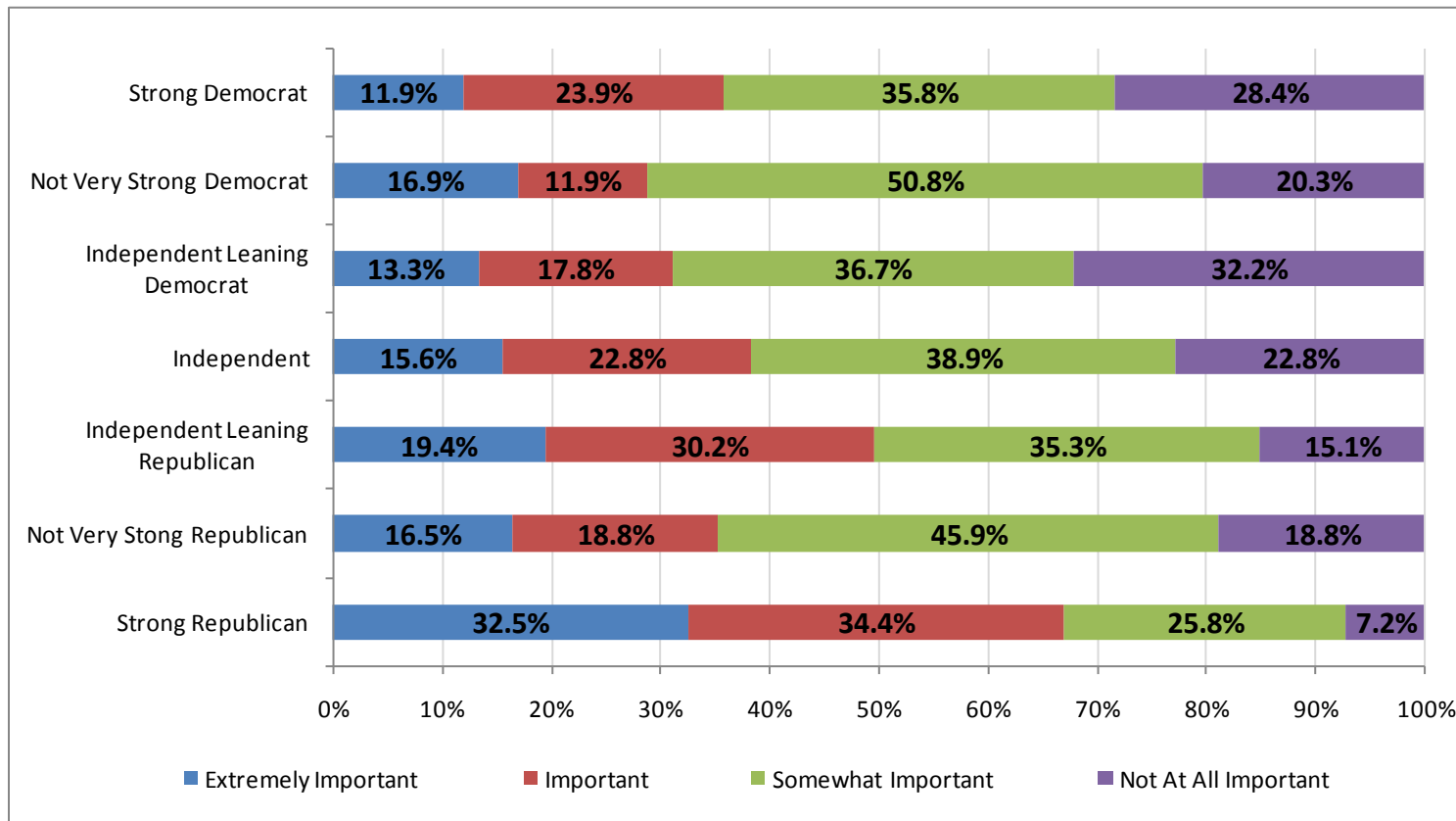
More than 80% of respondents thought that it was “extremely important” or “important” for Kansas to devote resources to the development of wind energy in both 2009 and 2010. Respondents’ opinions about the development of energy changed somewhat from 2009 to 2010, with a tendency to report less importance in 2010. Less than 60% of respondents (57.6%) thought it was “extremely important” or “important” for Kansas to develop oil energy in 2010, while in 2009 the percentage was 63%. About 45% of respondents felt it was “extremely important” or “important” for Kansas to develop coal energy in 2010, whereas in 2009 the percentage was 49.4%. The percentages of respondents who felt it was “extremely important” or “important” for Kansas to develop all three energy sources, including wind, were lower in 2010 than in 2009 (Figure 20).

**Figure 20: Opinion on Devoting Resources to the Development of Coal, Oil, and Wind: 2009 and 2010**



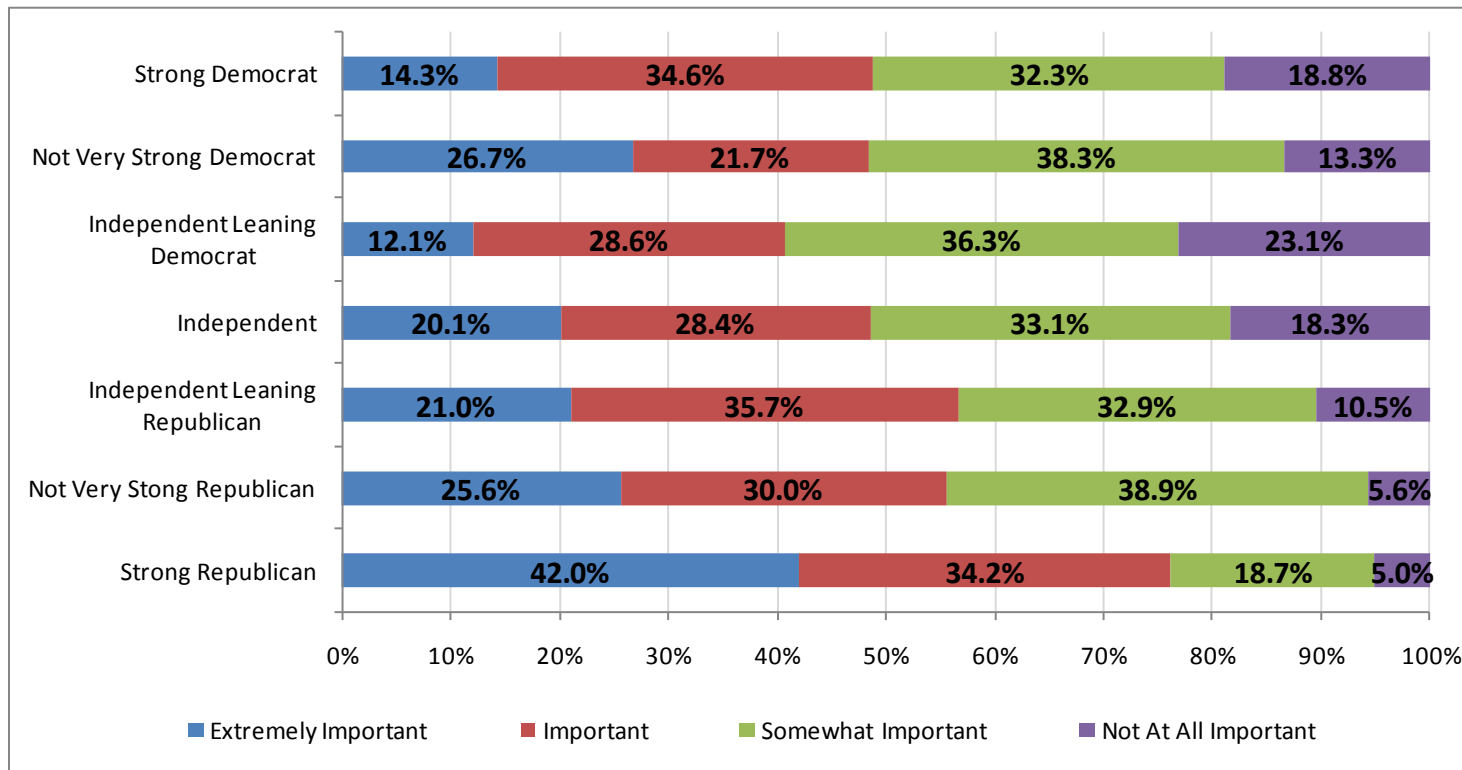
Respondents self-identifying different party affiliations varied in their opinions on energy policies. In general, Republicans and Independent voters leaning Republican were more likely to say it was “extremely important” or “important” for Kansas to devote resources to the development of coal and oil energy in 2010. About two-thirds (66.9%) of strong Republicans felt it is “extremely important” or “important” to develop coal energy, whereas 35.8% of strong Democrats felt so (Figure 21). More than half of Republicans and independent voters leaning Republican said it was “extremely important” or “important” for Kansas to develop oil energy, whereas less than half of Democrats, neutral Independent voters, and Independent voters leaning Democratic said so (Figure 22). Support for the development of wind energy was relatively high across all party affiliations, but percentages of strong Democrats and Independent voters leaning Democratic who said it was “extremely important” or “important” to develop wind energy were higher than for respondents of other party affiliations (Figure 23).

**Figure 21: Opinion on Devoting Resources to the Development of Coal by Party Affiliation: 2010**

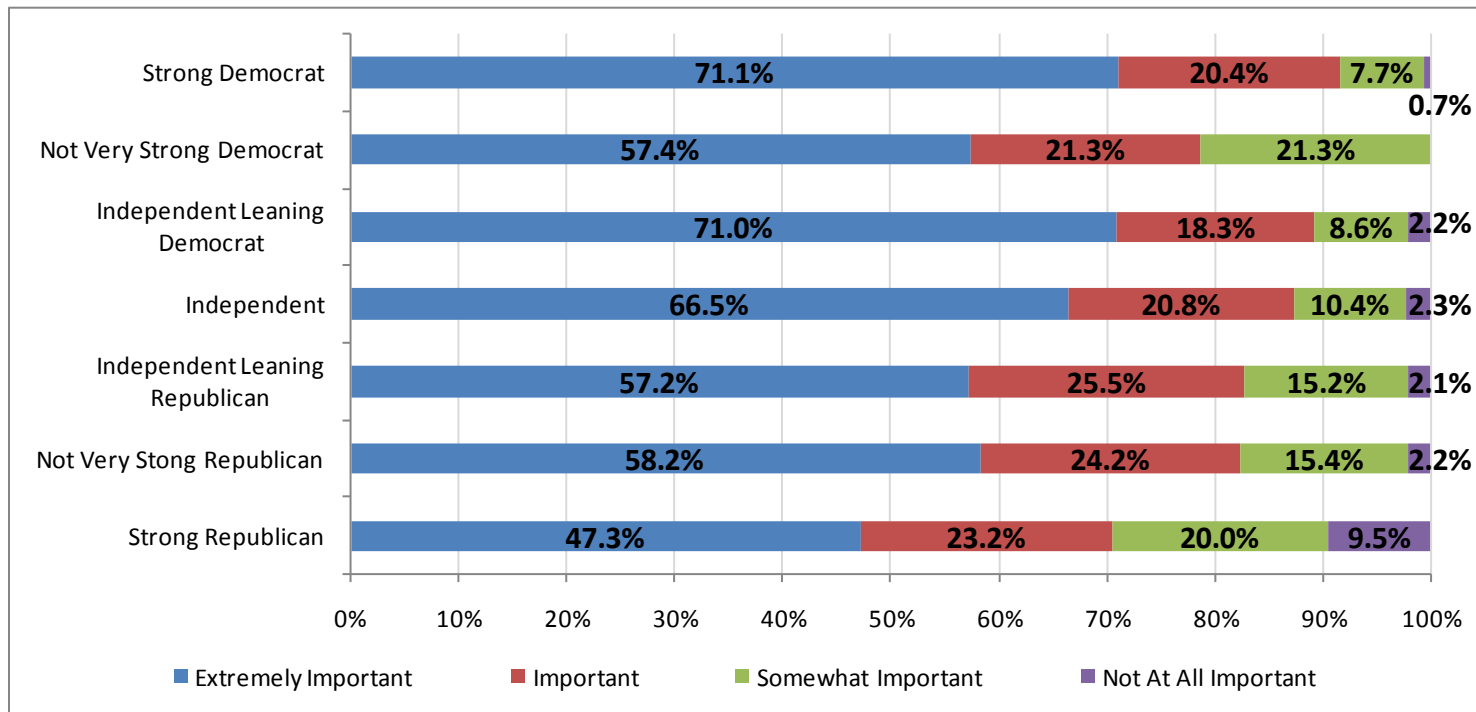




**Figure 22: Opinion on Devoting Resources to the Development of Oil by Party Affiliation: 2010**

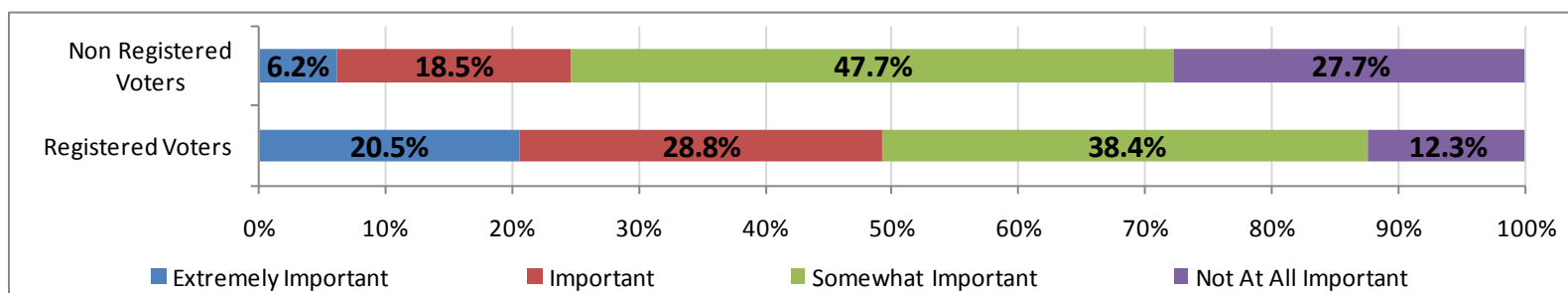


**Figure 23: Opinion on Devoting Resources to the Development of Wind by Party Affiliation: 2010**



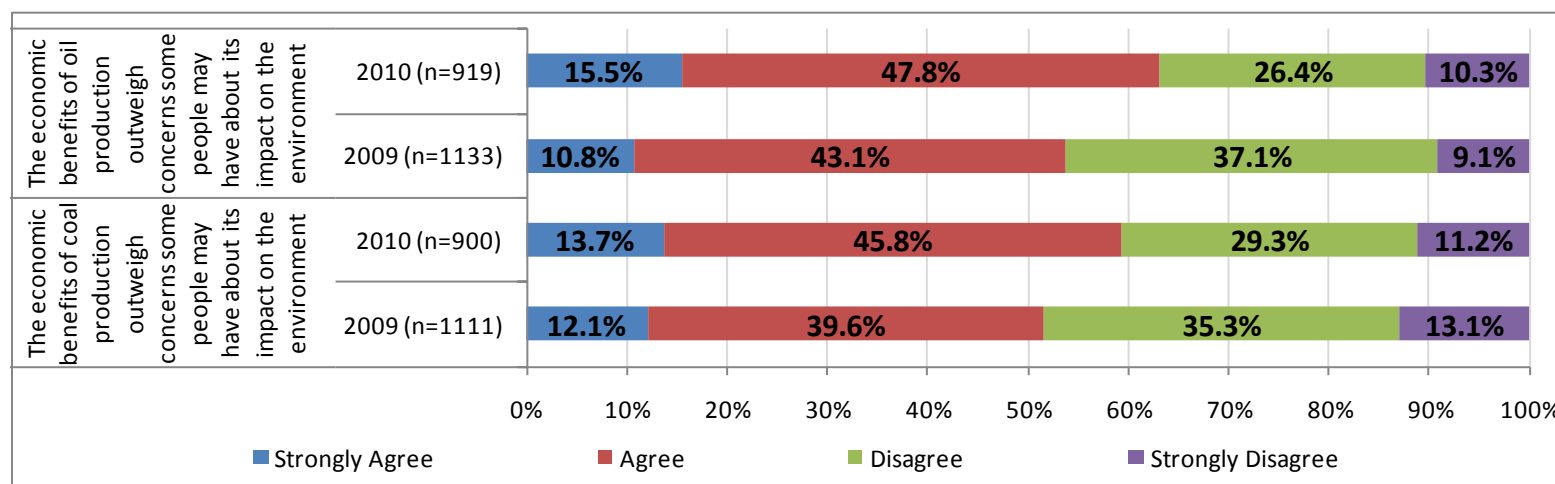
There was also a significant difference between registered voters' opinions on development of coal compared to those not registered in 2010. Almost half (49.3%) of registered voters thought it was extremely important or important for Kansas to devote resources to the development of coal energy, whereas 24.7% of those who were not registered felt so (Figure 24).

**Figure 24: Opinion on Devoting Resources to the Development of Coal by Registration Status: 2010**



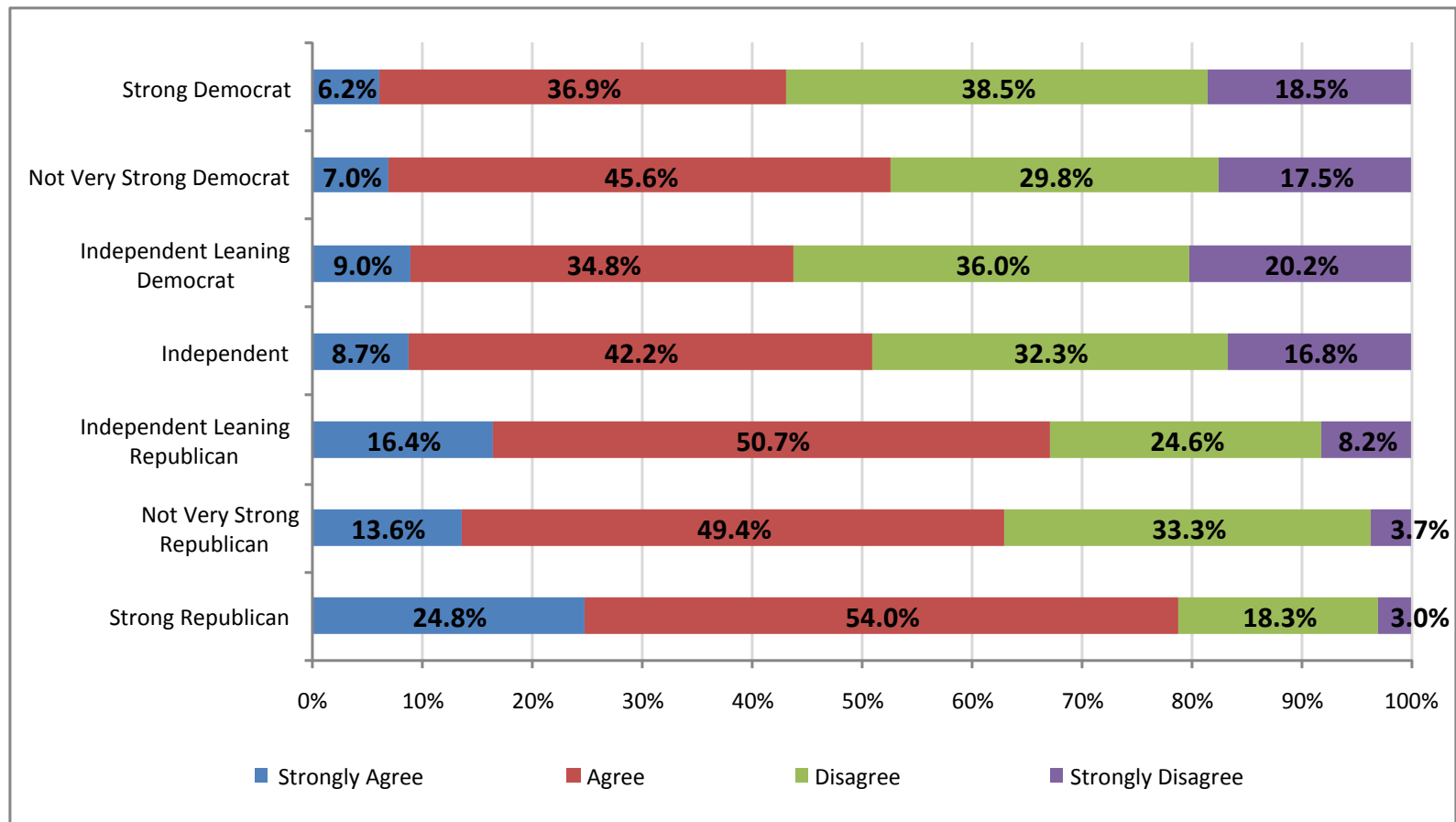
Respondents were asked about their opinions on the economic benefits versus the environmental impact of coal and oil production. In 2010, almost two-thirds (63.3%) of respondents strongly agreed or agreed that the economic benefits of oil production outweigh concerns about the impact on the environment, and 59.5% of respondents strongly agreed or agreed that the economic benefits of coal production outweigh concerns of the impact on the environment. Respondents' opinions in 2009 were significantly different from those in 2010. In 2009, the percentages of respondents who strongly agreed or agreed the economic benefits of coal and oil production outweigh concerns about the impact on the environment were both lower than those in 2010, despite the fact that data collection occurred in the wake of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill (Figure 25).

**Figure 25: Opinion on Coal and Oil Production: 2009 and 2010**

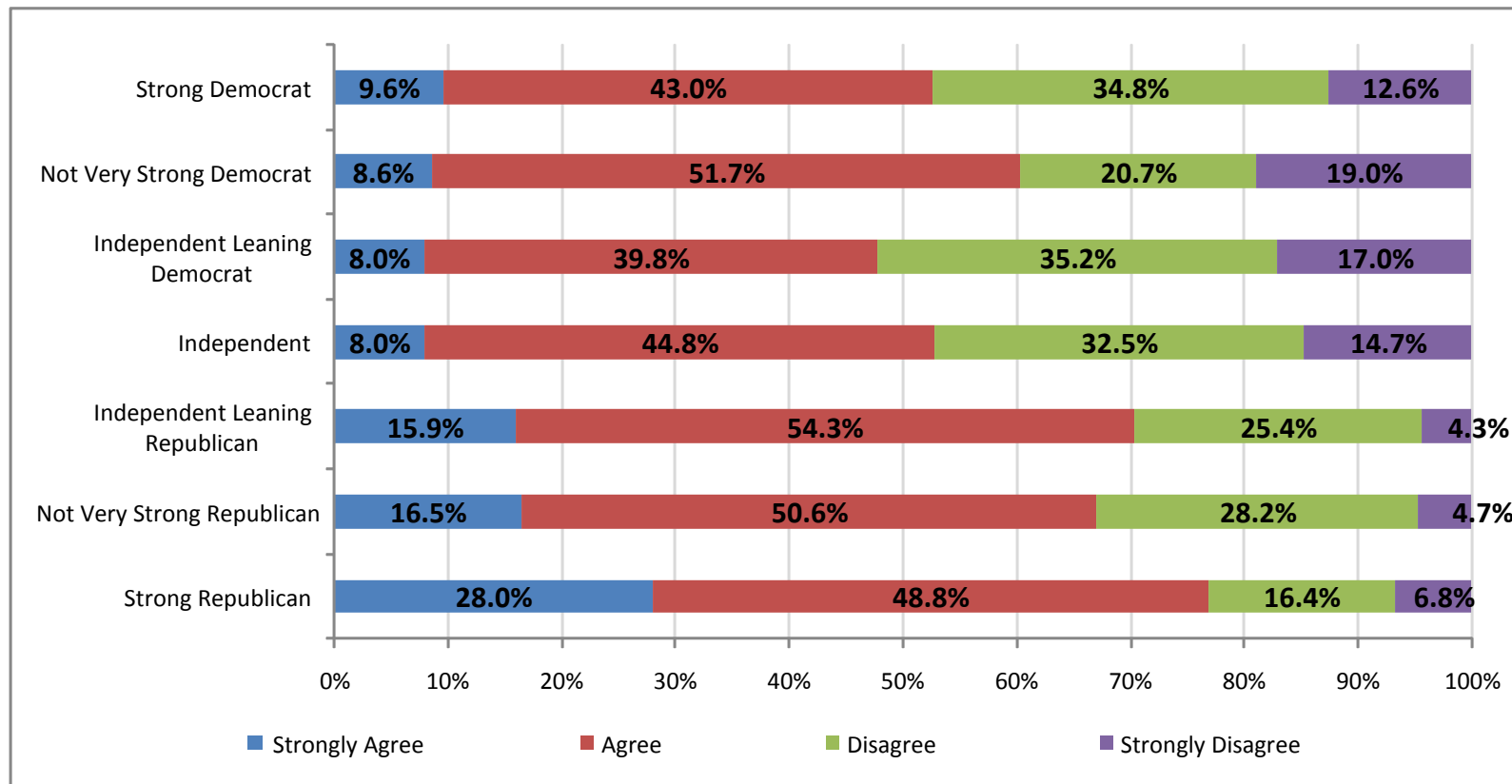


In the 2010 survey, the party affiliation variable has significantly strong relationships with respondents' opinions on the economic benefits and environmental impact of coal and oil production. Republicans and Independent voters leaning Republican were more likely to "strongly agree" or "agree" that the economic benefits of coal and oil production outweigh concerns about the impact on environment than Democrats, Independent voters leaning Democratic and neutral Independent voters. More than 60% of Republicans and Independent voters leaning Republican strongly agreed or agreed that the economic benefits of coal and oil production outweigh concerns about its impact on environment. The percentages of Democrats, Independent voters leaning Democratic and neutral Independent voters who strongly agreed or agreed so were generally less than 60% (Figures 26 and 27).

**Figure 26: Opinion on Economic Benefits and Environmental Impact of Coal Production by Party Affiliation: 2010**



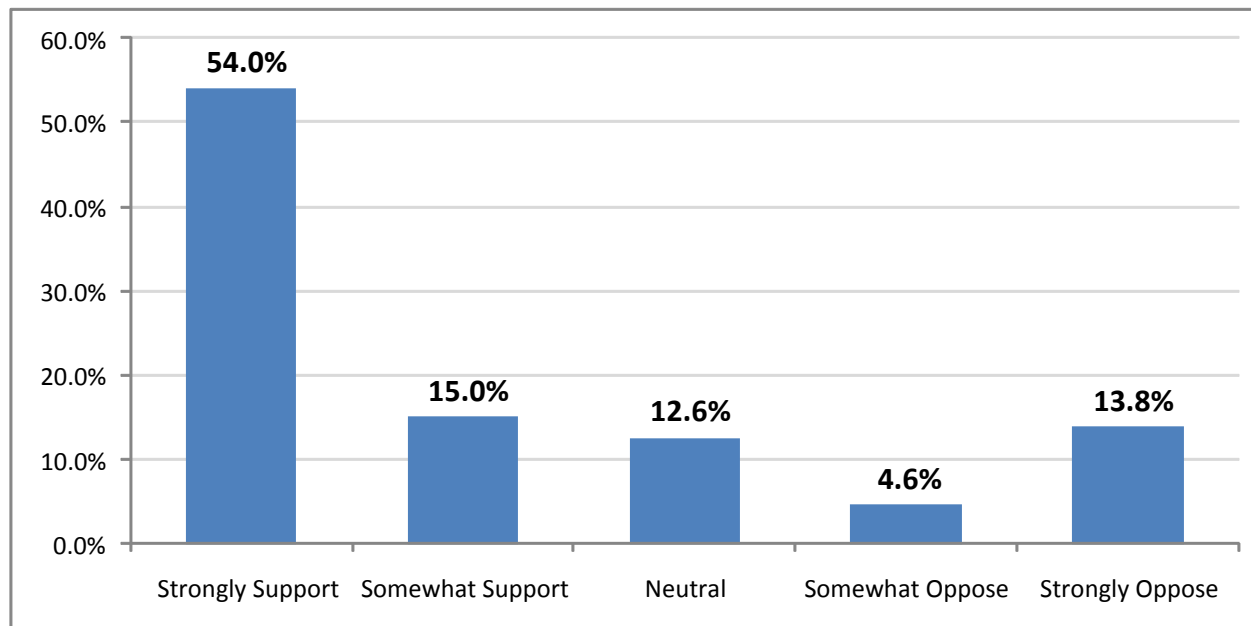
**Figure 27: Opinion on Economic Benefits and Environmental Impact of Oil Production by Party Affiliation: 2010**



## Section 6: Public Policy Issues

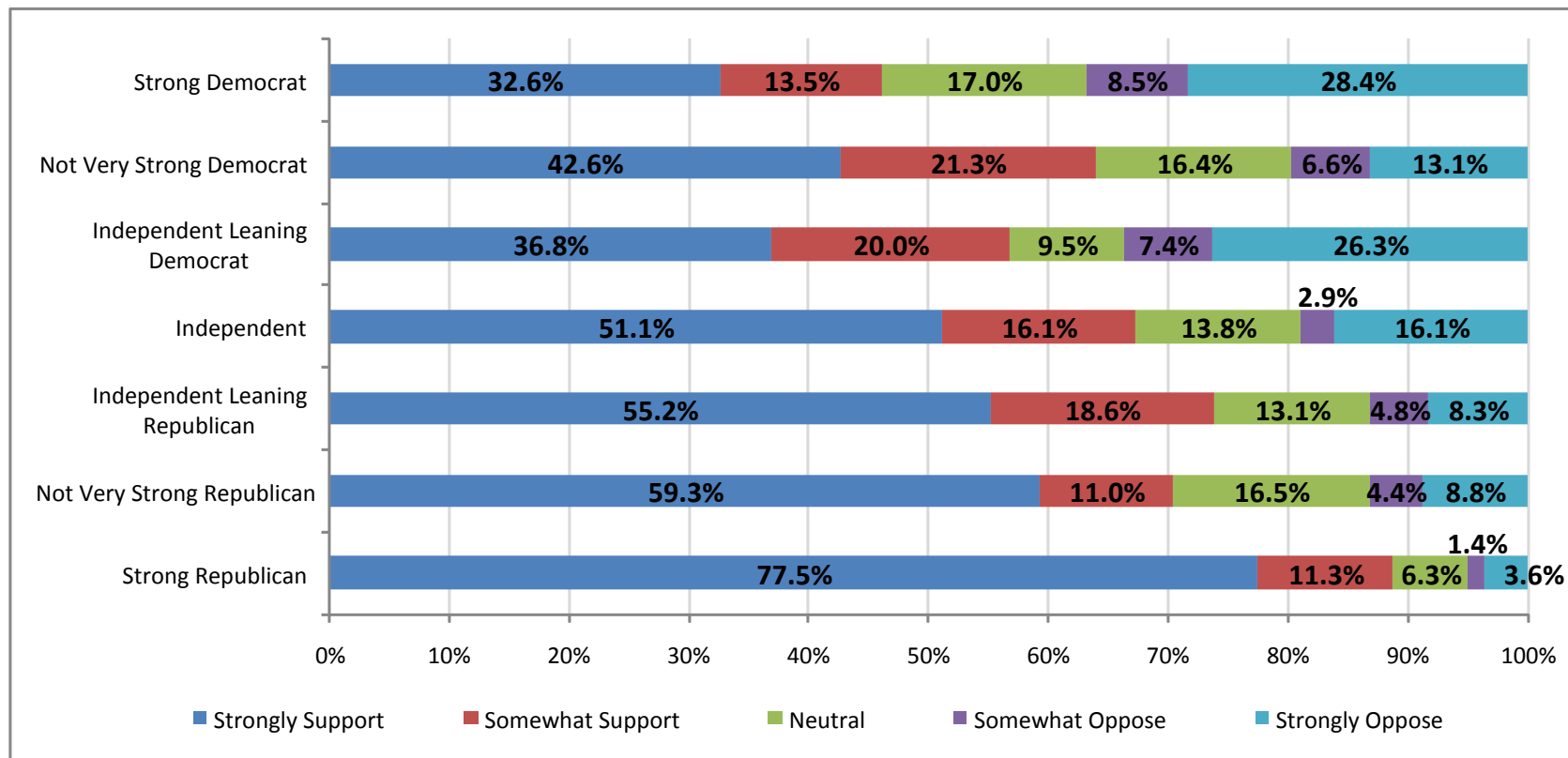
When asked if they support or oppose a state law that would require Kansas citizens to provide proof of legal residence to any law enforcement officer who asks for the proof, 54% of 984 respondents who provided valid answers said that they would “strongly support” such a law, and 15% said they would “somewhat support” it. About one-seventh (13.8%) said that they would “strongly oppose” it (Figure 28).

**Figure 28: Opinion on Providing Proof of Legal Residence to Law Enforcement Officer: 2010 (n=984)**



Respondents self-reporting different party affiliations had significantly different opinions on such a state law. Republicans and Independent voters leaning Republican were more likely to strongly or somewhat support the law than Democrats and Independent voters leaning Democratic. Almost ninety percent (88.8%) of strong Republicans said they would strongly or somewhat support such a law, whereas 46.1% of strong Democrats said they would support it (Figure 29).

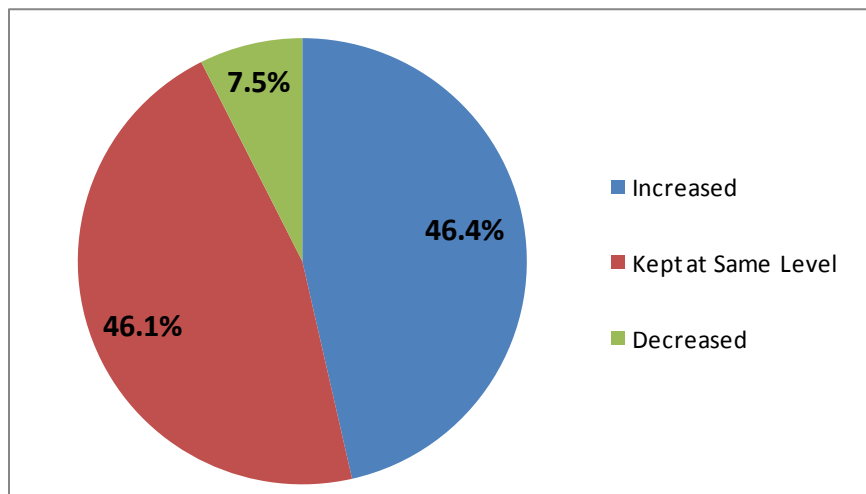
**Figure 29: Opinion on Providing Proof of Legal Residence to Law Enforcement Officer by Party Affiliation: 2010**





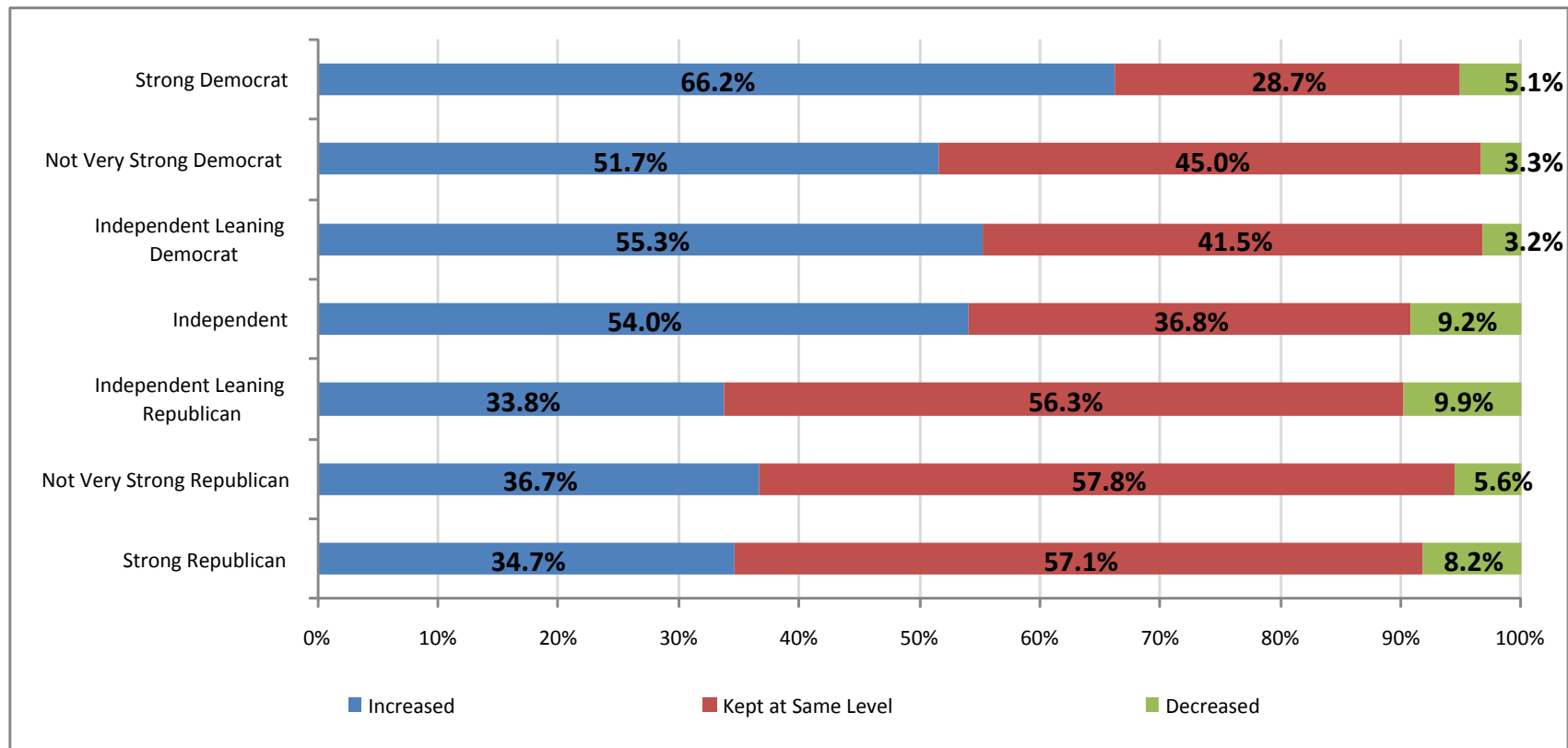
Respondents were asked if the current level of state funding for social services, such as senior and disability services, should be “increased,” “kept at the same level,” or “decreased.” Among those 965 respondents who provided valid answers, 46.4% said the level of state funding for social services should be “increased,” 46.1% said it should be “kept at the same level,” and 7.5% said it should be “decreased” (Figure 30).

**Figure 30: Opinion on State Funding for Social Services: 2010 (n=965)**

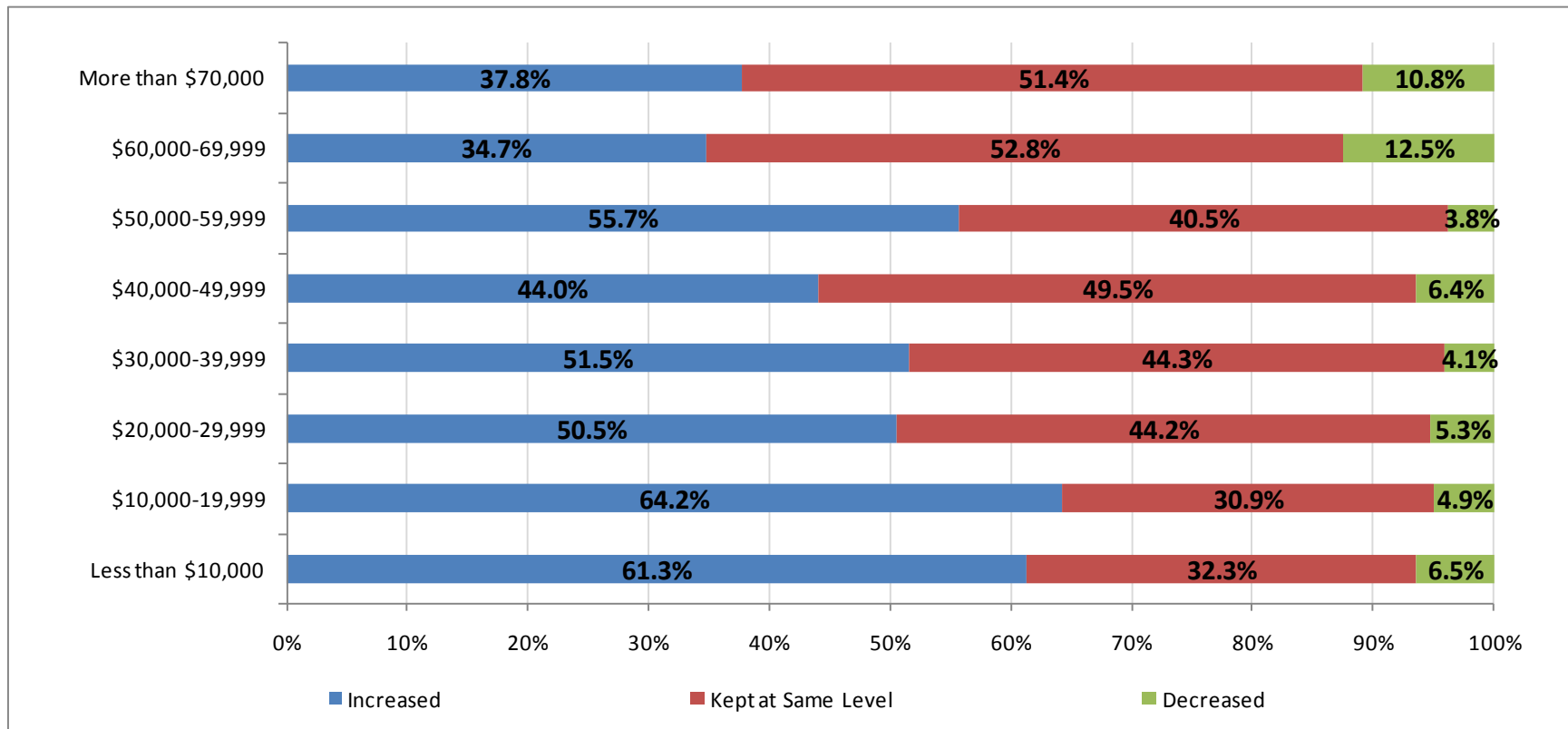


Respondents’ self-identified party affiliations and household incomes were both significantly associated with opinions on state funding for social services. Republicans and Independent voters leaning Republican were less likely to support increased state funding for social services than Democrats, Independent voters leaning Democratic, and neutral independent voters (Figure 31). In general, respondents with higher household income were less supportive of increased state funding for social services (Figure 32).

**Figure 31: Opinion on State Funding for Social Services by Party Affiliation: 2010**



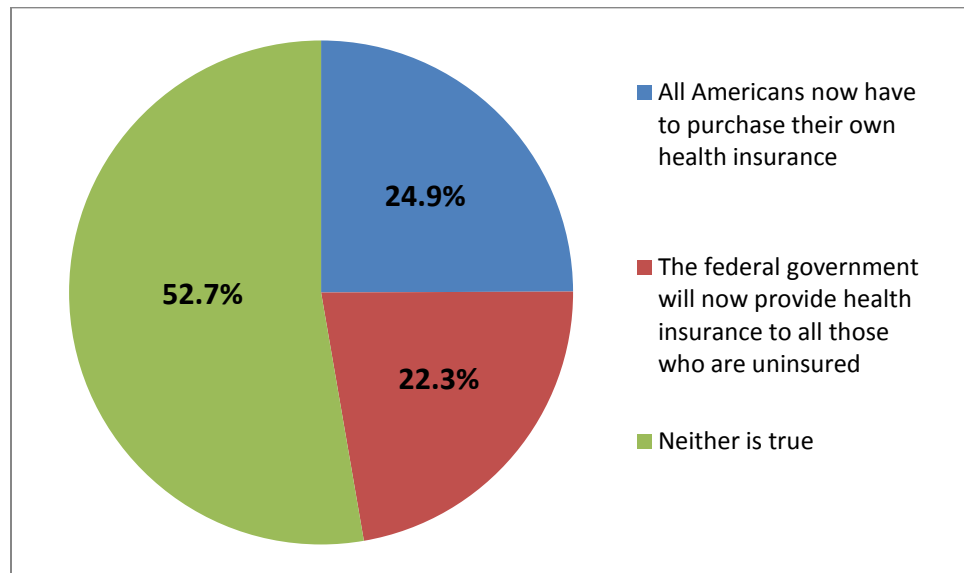
**Figure 32: Opinion on State Funding for Social Services by Household Income: 2010**



## Section 7: Healthcare and Education

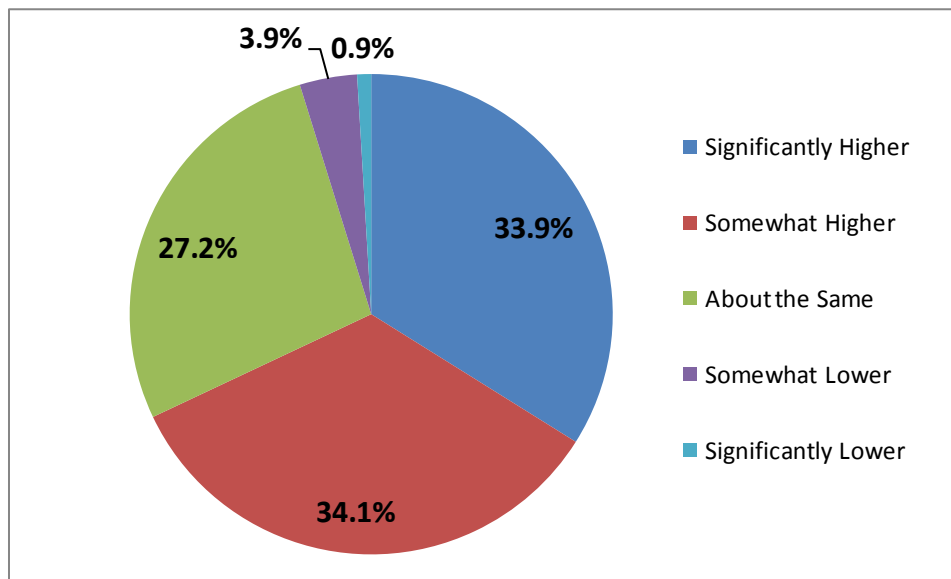
The survey asked respondents about their knowledge of the recent federal health care legislation. Among the 846 respondents who provided valid answers, 24.9% thought that the new legislation requires that “all Americans have to purchase their own health insurance,” and 22.3% thought that the new legislation requires “the federal government to provide health insurance to all those who are uninsured.” The fact is that people are not currently required to purchase their own health insurance, and the federal government will not provide health insurance to all those currently uninsured. Therefore, a little more than half (52.7%) of respondents who selected “neither is true”, had the correct knowledge of the recent federal health care legislation (Figure 33).

**Figure 33: Knowledge about Recent Federal Health Care Legislation: 2010 (n=846)**



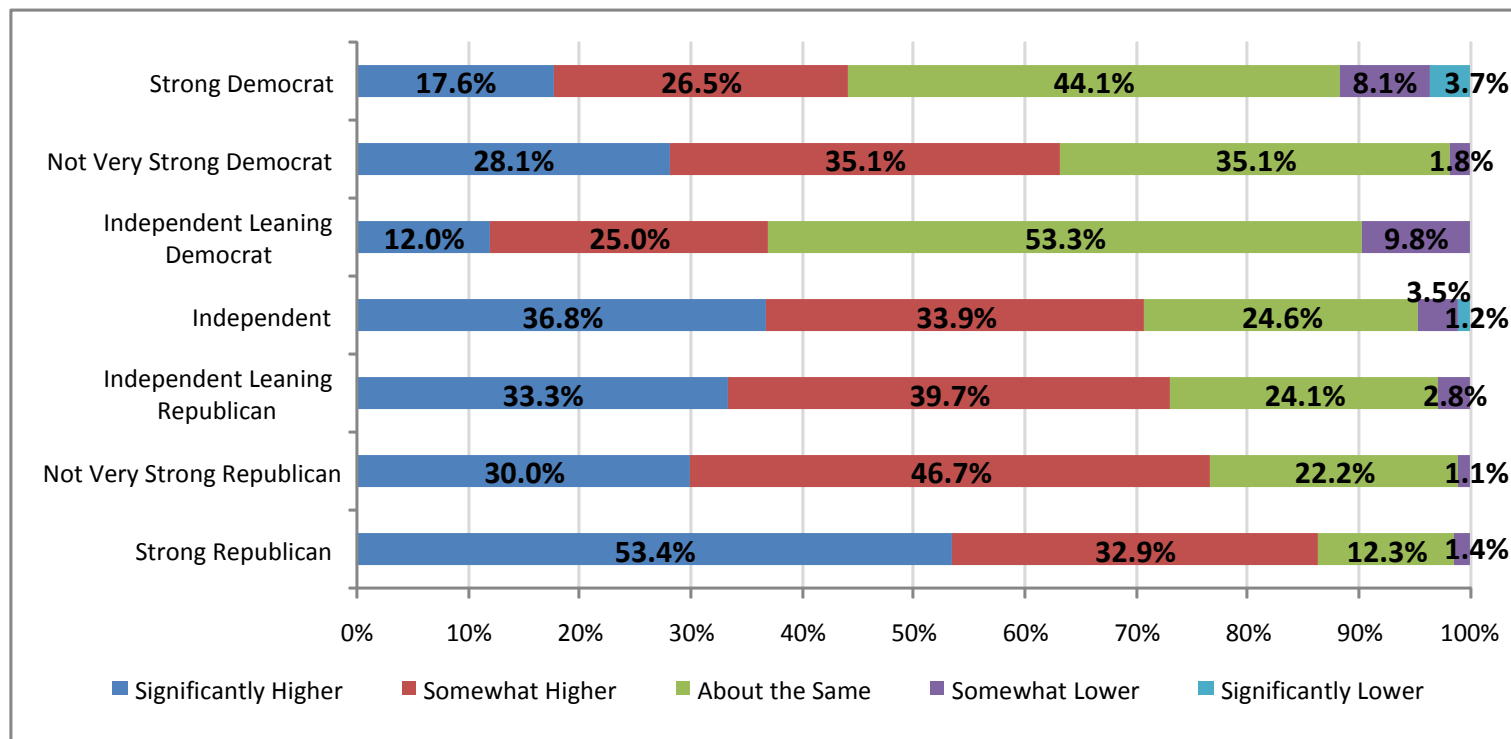
The survey continued to ask if respondents believed that their household health care costs would be higher, the same, or lower as a result of the recent federal health care legislation. Among those 959 respondents who provided valid answers, 33.9% thought their household health care costs would be “significantly higher” due to the recent federal health care legislation, 34.1% thought the costs would be “somewhat higher,” 27.2% thought the costs would be “about the same,” and 4.8% thought they would be somewhat or significantly lower (Figure 34).

**Figure 34: Household Health Care Cost Change due to Recent Federal Health Care Legislation: 2010 (n=959)**



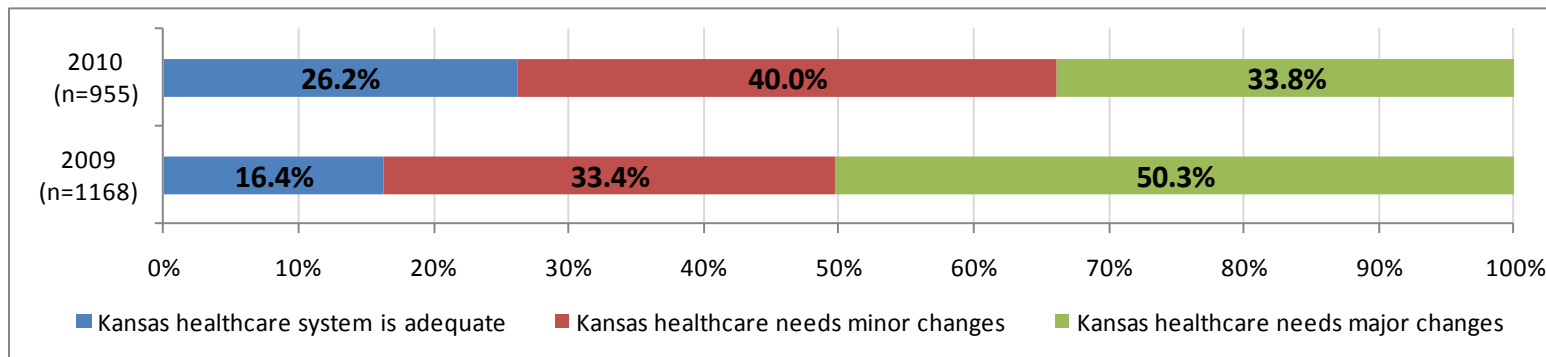
Respondents with different party affiliations tended to differ in their perceptions of changes in health care costs. In general, Republicans and Independent voters leaning Republican were more likely to believe that their household health care costs would be higher due to the recent federal health care legislation than Democrats and Independent voters leaning Democratic. More than 70% of Republicans and Independent voters leaning Republican believed that their household health costs would be significantly or somewhat higher, whereas less than 70% of Democrats and Independent voters leaning Democratic believed so (Figure 35).

**Figure 35: Household Health Cost Change due to Recent Federal Health Care Legislation by Party Affiliation: 2010**

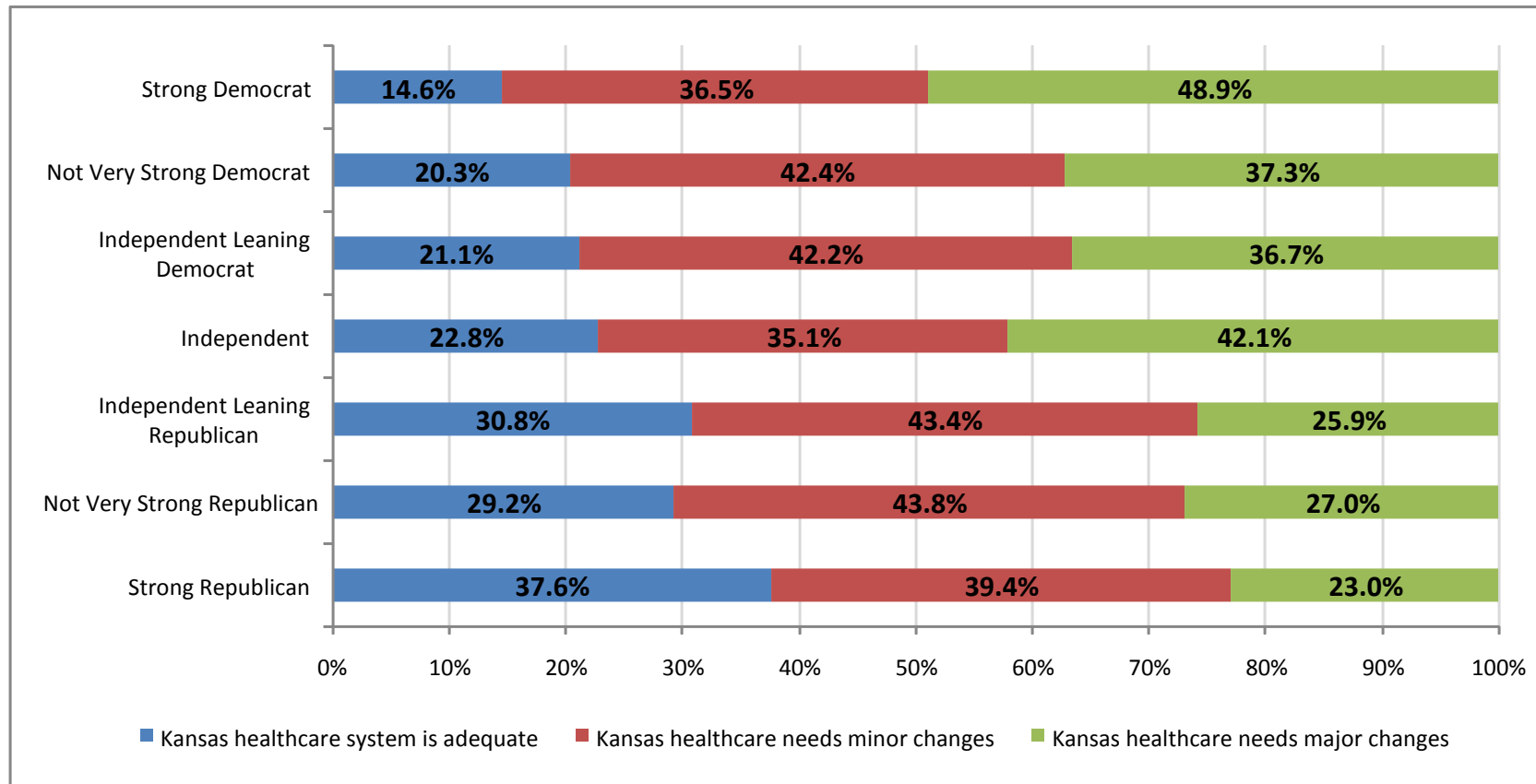


The survey also asked about respondents' opinions on the adequacy of health care in Kansas. In 2010, 26.2% of respondents felt that the "Kansas healthcare system is adequate," 40% said it "needs minor changes," and 33.8% said it "needs major changes." Respondents' opinions were significantly different from that in 2010. In 2009, half of the respondents said that the "Kansas healthcare needs major changes" compared to one third in 2010 (Figure 36). Respondents with different party affiliations differed in their opinions on healthcare in Kansas in 2010. Compared with Democrats, Independent voters leaning Democratic, and neutral Independent voters, Republicans and Independent voters leaning Republican were more likely to say that the "Kansas healthcare system is adequate" and less likely to say it "needs major changes" (Figure 37).

**Figure 36: Opinion on the Adequacy of Health Care in Kansas: 2009 and 2010**



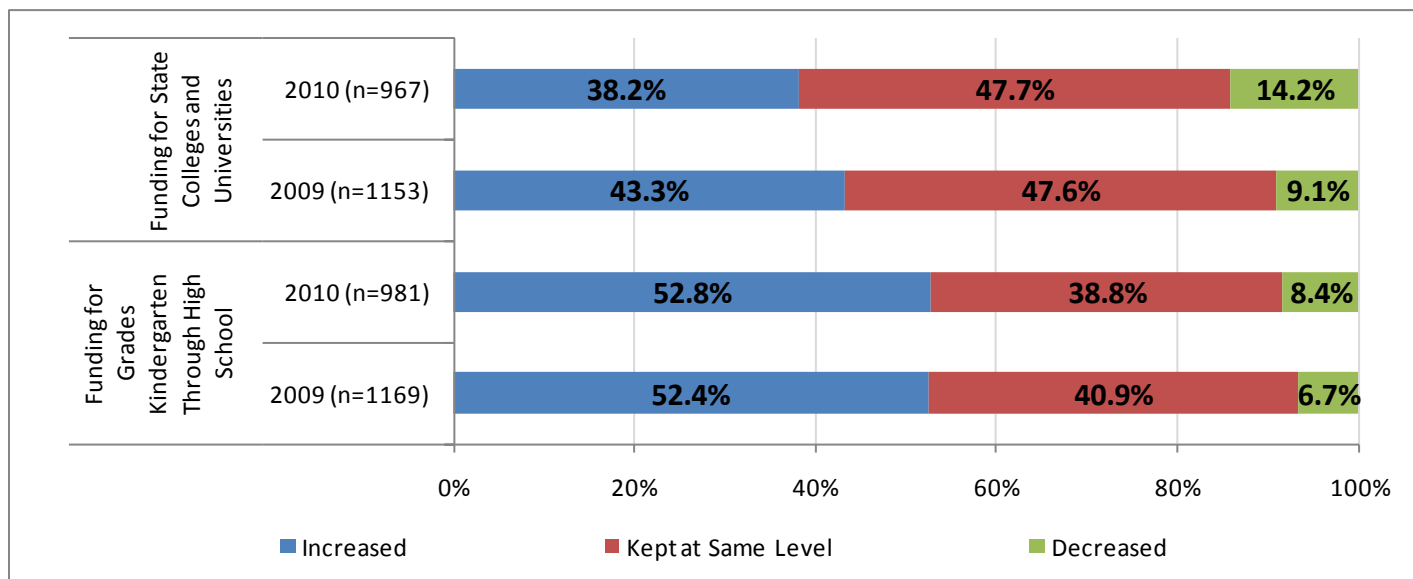
**Figure 37: Opinion on the Adequacy of Health Care in Kansas by Party Affiliation: 2010**





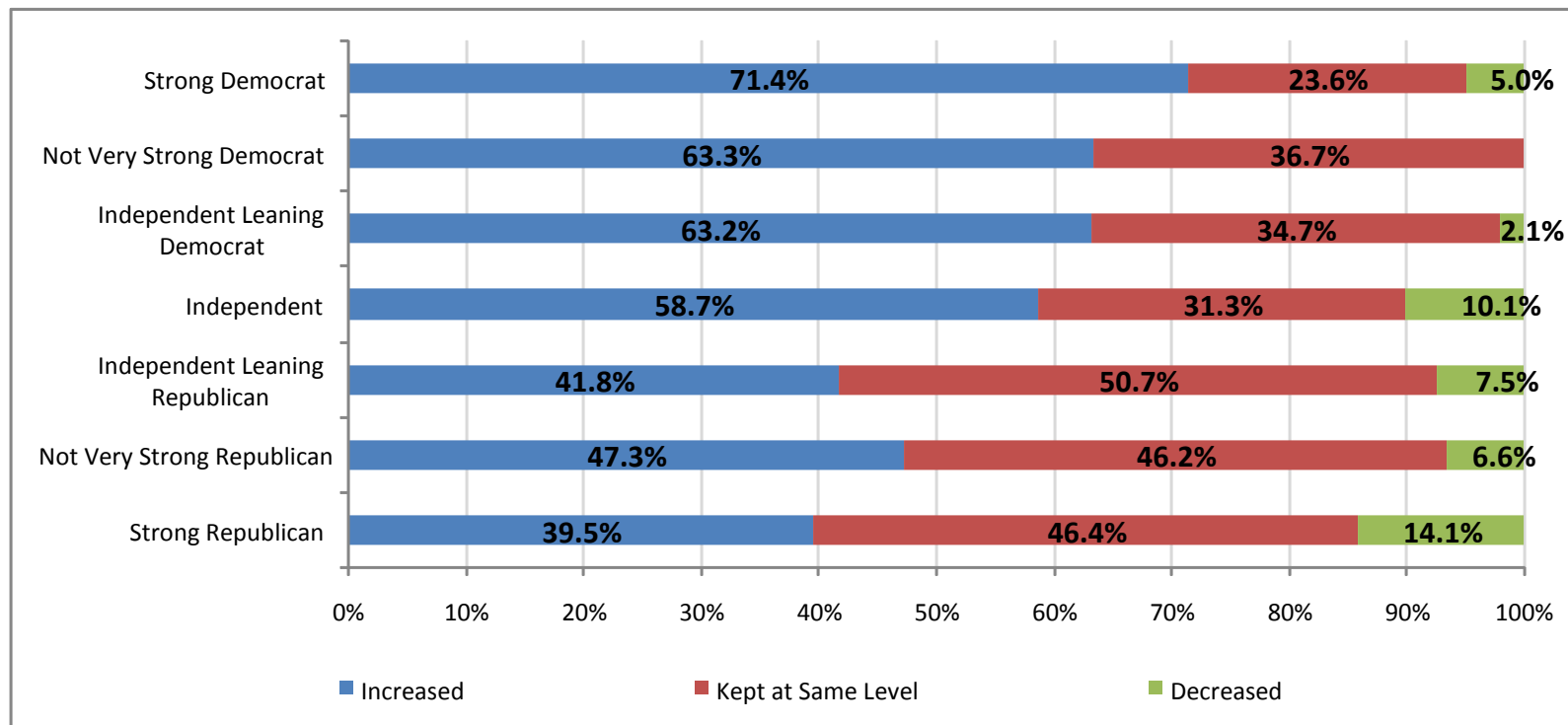
The survey asked about respondents' opinions on the levels of state funding for Kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade (K-12) and higher education in Kansas. Support for increasing state funding for K-12 in 2010 declined only slightly from that in 2009. About 53% of respondents said that the level of state funding for K-12 should be "increased" in both years, though the percent favoring reduced spending increased slightly. Support for state funding of higher education also declined in 2010. The percentage of respondents who said the state funding for higher education should be "increased" was 38.2% in 2010, about 5% lower than that in 2009. As with K-12, a higher percentage (14.2%) of respondents said that state funding for higher education should be "decreased," which is about 5% higher than in 2009 (Figure 38). Statistical analysis shows that respondents' opinions about state funding for higher education changed significantly from 2009 to 2010.

**Figure 38: Opinion on State Education Funding: 2009 and 2010**

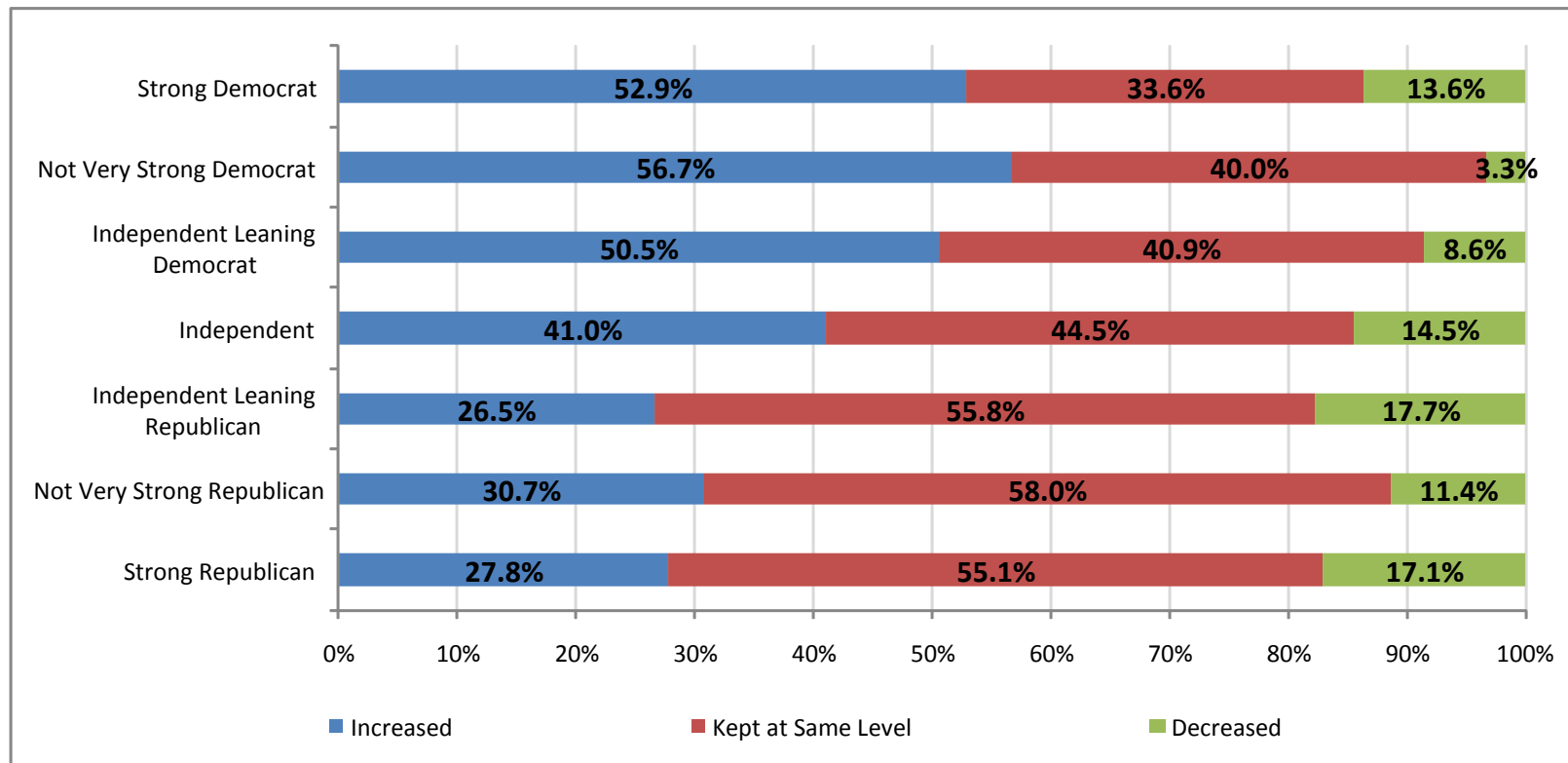


Respondents' opinions on state funding of public education were significantly related to their party affiliations in 2010. Democrats, Independent voters leaning Democratic and neutral Independent voters were more likely to support increased state funding for K-12 and higher education than Republicans and Independent voters leaning Republican. More than 60% of Democrats and Independent voters leaning Democratic said the state funding for K-12 should be "increased," whereas less than 50% of Republicans and Independent voters leaning Republican said so. More than 50% of Democrats and Independent voters said the state funding for higher education should be "increased," whereas less than one third of Republicans and Independent voters leaning Republican said so (Figures 39 and 40).

**Figure 39: Opinion on State Education Funding for K-12 by Party Affiliation: 2010**



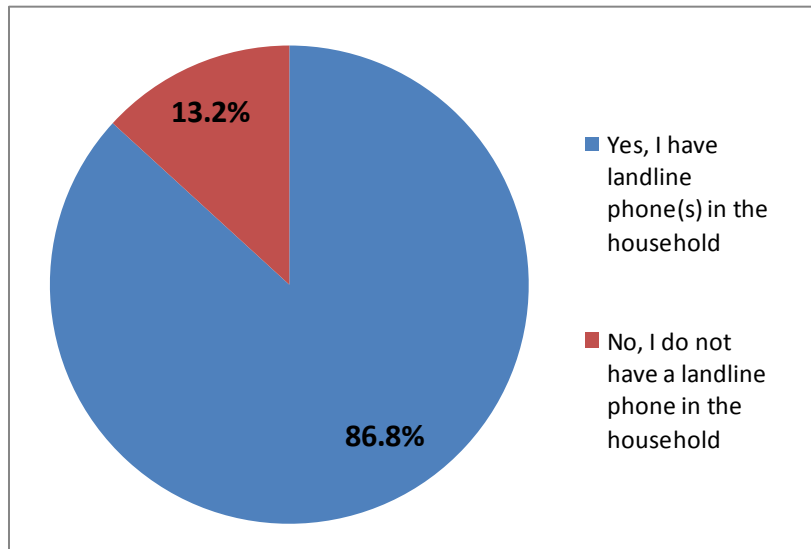
**Figure 40: Opinion on State Education Funding for Higher Education by Party Affiliation: 2010**



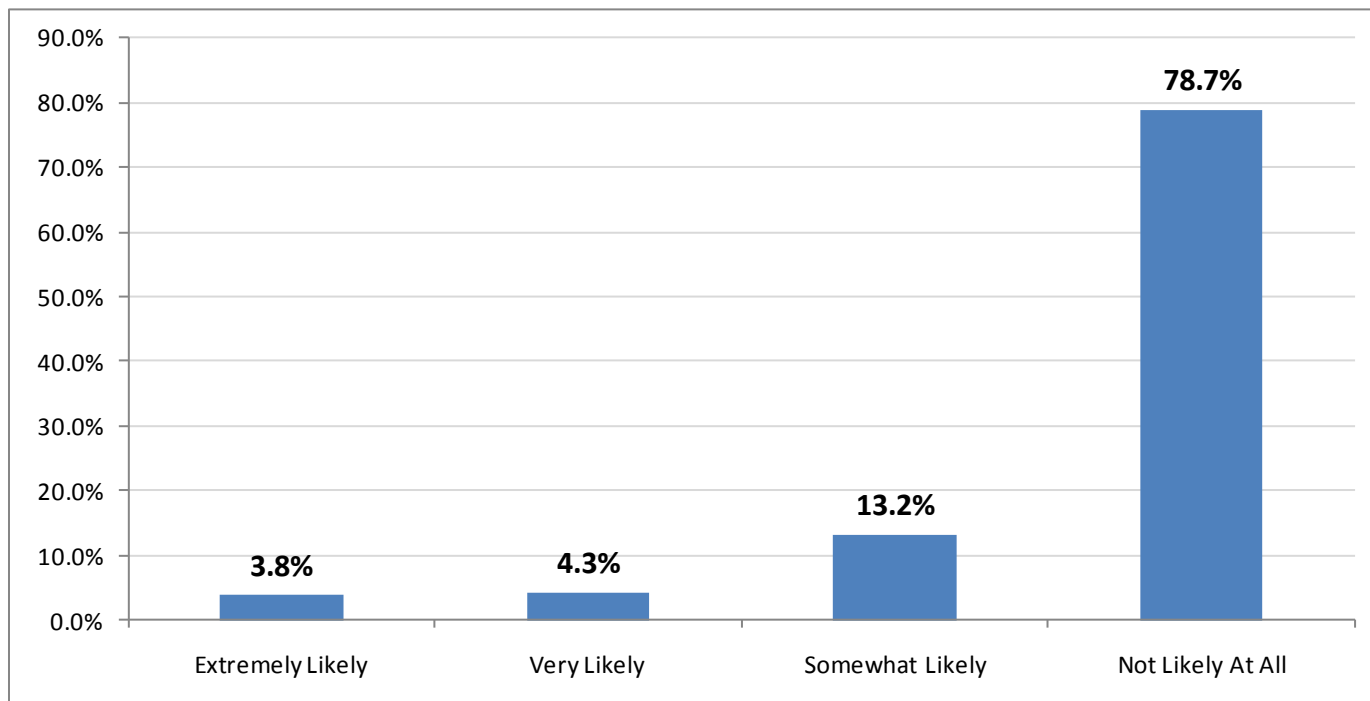
## Section 8: Phone Usage

The survey asked if respondents had a landline phone in their household. Among 988 respondents who provided valid answers, 86.8% said they had at least one landline phone in their household (Figure 41). The survey continued asking those who had landline phones in their households how likely respondents would discontinue landline service within the next year and use a cell phone only. A majority (78.7%) of them said it was not at all likely that they would discontinue their landline phone within the next year and use a cell phone only instead (Figure 42).

**Figure 41: Landline Phone Ownership: 2010 (n=988)**

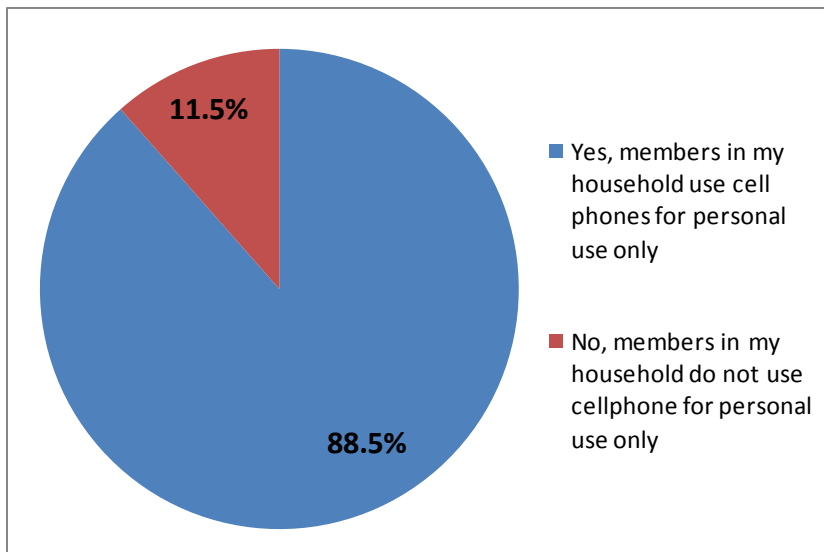


**Figure 42: Likelihood of Terminating Landline Phone: 2010 (n=851)**

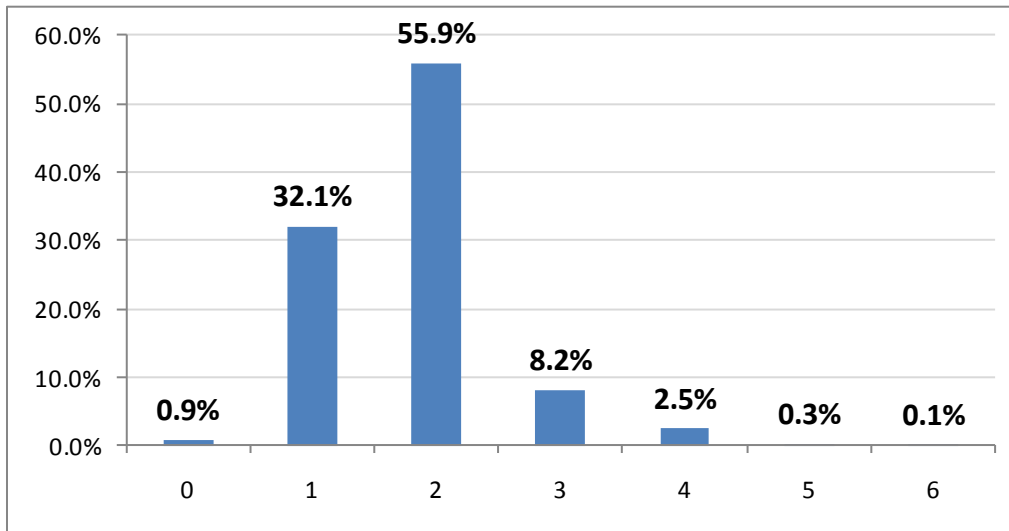


When asked if members of their households use cell phones for personal use only, 990 respondents answered the question, and among them 88.5% said “Yes” (Figure 43). The survey continued asking the numbers of adults and children in the household who use cell phones. A majority (88.9%) of respondents indicated that two or fewer adult members in their households use a cell phone (Figure 44). Less than twenty percent (18.3%) of respondents said that children in their households use a cell phone (Figure 45).

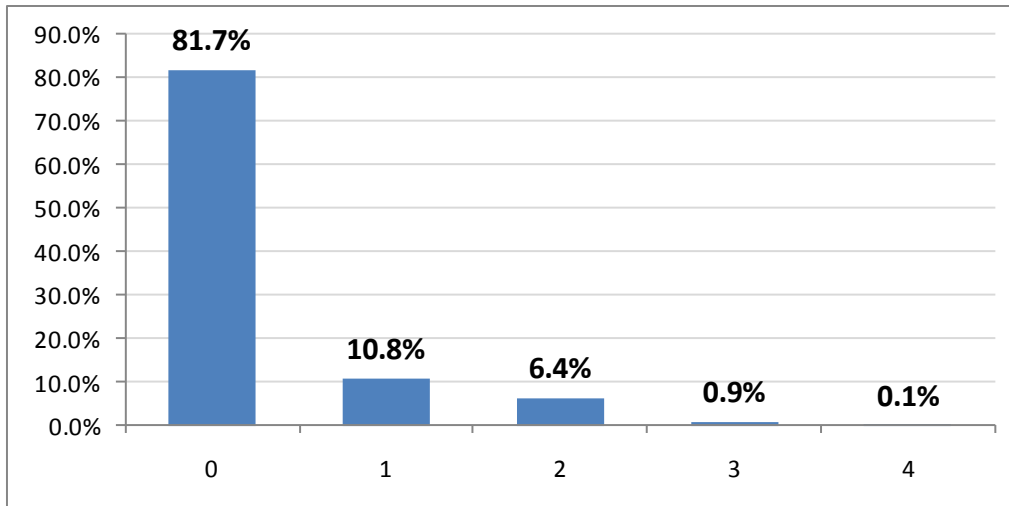
**Figure 43: Personal Cell Phone Ownership: 2010 (n=990)**



**Figure 44: Number of Adults Using a Cell Phone: 2010 (n=879)**

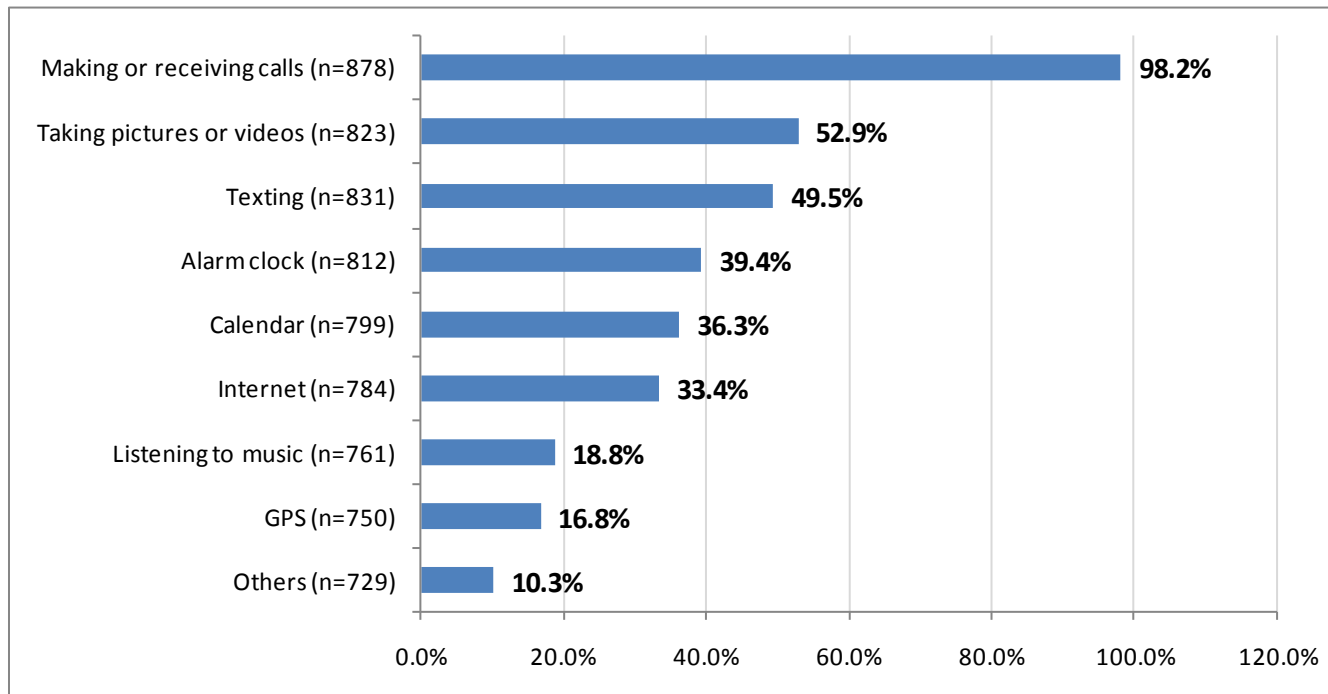


**Figure 45: Number of Children Using a Cell Phone: 2010 (n=854)**



Cell phones are used mostly for making and receiving calls among respondents surveyed. Almost all (98.2%) respondents indicated that they use cell phones for making and receiving calls. More than half (52.9%) of respondents said they used cell phones for taking pictures or videos. Less than twenty percent (16.8%) use the GPS function on their cell phones (Figure 46).

**Figure 46: Features Used on Cell Phone: 2010**





## Appendix A: Demographic Characteristics of the Sample

Social Indicators		Survey Sample	Study Population
Gender	Male	(N=998) 44.2%	49.7% <sup>a</sup>
	Female	55.8%	50.3% <sup>a</sup>
Hispanic Origin		(N=995) 2.9%	9.3% <sup>a</sup>
Race	White	(N=989) 92.0%	88.5% <sup>a</sup>
	Black or African American	2.8%	6.2% <sup>a</sup>
	Biracial	0.9%	1.9% <sup>a</sup>
	Asian	0.6%	2.3% <sup>a</sup>
	American Indian	1.1%	1.0% <sup>a</sup>
	Other	2.5%	0.1% <sup>a</sup>
Household Income	Less than \$10,000	(N=869) 3.7%	8.6% <sup>b</sup>
	\$10,000-\$19,999	9.6%	13.0% <sup>b</sup>
	\$20,000-\$29,000	11.6%	14.2% <sup>b</sup>
	\$30,000-\$39,999	11.3%	13.4% <sup>b</sup>
	\$40,000-\$49,999	12.9%	11.7% <sup>b</sup>
	\$50,000-\$59,999	9.4%	9.6% <sup>b</sup>
	\$60,000 and more	41.5%	29.7% <sup>b</sup>

**Appendix A (cont.): Demographic Characteristics of the Sample**

<b>Social Indicators</b>		<b>Survey Sample</b>	<b>Study Population</b>
Education		<b>(N=1000)</b>	
	Less Than High School	3.5%	14.0% <sup>b</sup>
	High School Diploma	24.8%	29.8% <sup>b</sup>
	Some College	25.0%	24.6% <sup>b</sup>
	Associates or Technical Degree	11.4%	7.7% <sup>b</sup>
	Bachelors	21.6%	17.1% <sup>b</sup>
	Masters or Law	11.8%	6.1% <sup>b</sup>
	Doctoral	1.9%	0.9% <sup>b</sup>
Age (of those 18 and older)		<b>(N=977)</b>	
	18 to 19 years old	0.72%	28.0% <sup>c</sup>
	20 to 24 years old	2.46%	7.9% <sup>a</sup>
	25 to 29 years old	3.28%	7.1% <sup>a</sup>
	30 to 34 years old	3.58%	6.0% <sup>a</sup>
	35 to 39 years old	5.63%	6.2% <sup>a</sup>
	40 to 44 years old	6.35%	6.2% <sup>a</sup>
	45 to 49 years old	8.09%	7.2% <sup>a</sup>
	50 to 54 years old	11.57%	7.1% <sup>a</sup>
	55 to 59 years old	12.28%	6.2% <sup>a</sup>
	60 to 64 years old	10.64%	5.0% <sup>a</sup>
	65 to 69 years old	9.83%	3.7% <sup>a</sup>
	70 to 74 years old	9.01%	2.9% <sup>a</sup>
	75 to 79 years old	6.76%	2.4% <sup>a</sup>
	80 to 84 years old	5.73%	2.0% <sup>a</sup>
	85 years old and over	4.09%	2.1% <sup>a</sup>

## Appendix A (cont.): Demographic Characteristics of the Sample

Social Indicators		Survey Sample	Study Population
Political Party Affiliation		<b>(N=943)</b>	
	Strong Republican	23.8%	n/a
	Not Very Strong Republican	9.9%	n/a
	Independent Leaning Republican	15.6%	n/a
	Independent	19.0%	n/a
	Independent Leaning Democrat	10.1%	n/a
	Not Very Strong Democrat	6.5%	n/a
	Strong Democrat	15.3%	n/a
Years living in Kansas		<b>(N=979)</b>	
	1 to 20 years	19.4%	n/a
	21 to 40 years	25.9%	n/a
	41 to 60 years	29.6%	n/a
	More than 60 years	25.0%	n/a
Participation in 2008 election		<b>(N=991)</b>	
	Vote	85.1%	n/a
	Not Vote	14.9%	n/a
Registered to vote		<b>(N=147)</b>	
	Registered	53.1%	n/a
	Not Register	46.9%	n/a

n/a = not available

<sup>a</sup> Source: U.S. Census Bureau (<http://factfinder.census.gov>). The information comes from 2009 population estimation.

<sup>b</sup> Source: U.S. Census Bureau (<http://factfinder.census.gov>). The information comes from 2000 decennial census.

<sup>c</sup> Source: U.S. Census Bureau (<http://factfinder.census.gov>). The information comes from 2009 population estimation. This is the percentage of people of 0 to 19 years old.

## Appendix B: Mail Survey Instrument



# KANSAS SPEAKS

*When Kansas speaks, Kansas listens.*

## Mail Survey

If you would rather complete this survey online, please log on to [www.fhsu.edu/docking](http://www.fhsu.edu/docking) and click on the web surveys link at the bottom of the page to access the **Kansas Speaks** survey. The password is: docking. Please DO NOT share this link with others in order to maintain representativeness.

For the following questions, please circle the number corresponding to your answer. Skip any question for which you have no opinion or response.

Q1. In general, how would you rate Kansas as a place to live, the Kansas economy, and the Kansas state government?

	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor
As a place to live, Kansas is	1	2	3	4	5	6
The Kansas economy is	1	2	3	4	5	6
The Kansas state government is	1	2	3	4	5	6

Q2. How satisfied are you with the overall performance of the Kansas legislature, Governor Parkinson, and your state and congressional senators and representatives?

	Very Satisfied	Moderately Satisfied	Slightly Satisfied	Not Satisfied
Overall performance of the Kansas legislature	1	2	3	4
Overall performance of Governor Parkinson	1	2	3	4
Overall performance of state senator in your district	1	2	3	4
Overall performance of state representative in your district	1	2	3	4
Overall performance of your U.S. senator	1	2	3	4
Overall performance of your U.S. Congressperson	1	2	3	4

Q3. How satisfied are you with Governor Parkinson's and state party leaders' ideas to improve the health of the Kansas economy?

	Very Satisfied	Moderately Satisfied	Slightly Satisfied	Not Satisfied
Governor Parkinson's efforts to improve the health of the Kansas economy	1	2	3	4
Kansas Democratic Party leaders' ideas to improve the health of the Kansas economy	1	2	3	4
Kansas Republican Party leaders' ideas to improve the health of the Kansas economy	1	2	3	4

Q4. How concerned are you that the Kansas economy will seriously threaten you or your family's welfare?

Very Concerned	Moderately Concerned	Slightly Concerned	Not Concerned
1	2	3	4

Q5. Do you believe that Kansas government spending should be increased, remain the same, or decreased?

Increased	Remain the Same	Decreased
1	2	3

Q6. Kansas has three primary revenue sources: income tax, sales tax, and property tax. Thinking of the current Kansas economy, do you believe that each of the following taxes should be significantly increased, somewhat increased, remain the same, somewhat decreased, or significantly decreased?

	Significantly Increased	Somewhat Increased	Remain the Same	Somewhat Decreased	Significantly Decreased
Income tax	1	2	3	4	5
Sales tax	1	2	3	4	5
Property tax	1	2	3	4	5

Q7. Tax increases and reductions can be targeted at different people or businesses. Please tell us whether you think taxes on the following groups should increase, remained the same, or decrease.

	Increase	Remain the Same	Decrease
Taxes on the top income earners	1	2	3
Taxes on the middle class	1	2	3
Taxes on large corporations	1	2	3
Taxes on small businesses (less than 500 employees)	1	2	3

Q8. How strongly would you support or oppose a state law that requires Kansas citizens to provide proof of legal residence to any law enforcement officer who asks for the proof?

Strongly Support	Somewhat Support	Neutral	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose
1	2	3	4	5

Q9. To the best of your knowledge, what does the recent federal health care legislation require?

All Americans now have to purchase their own health insurance	The federal government will now provide health insurance to all those who are uninsured	Neither is true
1	2	3

Q10. As a result of the recent federal health care legislation, do you believe that your household health care costs will be significantly higher, somewhat higher, about the same, somewhat lower, or significantly lower?

Significantly Higher	Somewhat Higher	About the Same	Somewhat Lower	Significantly Lower
1	2	3	4	5

Q11. Which of the following best describes your opinion on healthcare in Kansas?

The Kansas healthcare system is adequate	It needs some minor changes	It needs some major changes
1	2	3

Q12. How important is it for Kansas to devote resources to the development of the following energy sources?

	Extremely Important	Important	Somewhat Important	Not At All Important
Coal	1	2	3	4
Oil	1	2	3	4
Wind	1	2	3	4

Q13. Do you strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree with the following statements about coal and oil production?

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
The economic benefits of <b>coal production</b> outweigh concerns some people may have about its impact on the environment.	1	2	3	4
The economic benefits of <b>oil production</b> outweigh concerns some people may have about its impact on the environment.	1	2	3	4

Q14. Thinking about the current level of state funding for the following items, would you say that the amount of funding should be increased, kept at the same level, or decreased?

	Increased	Kept at the same level	Decreased
Current level of state education funding for grades kindergarten through high school	1	2	3
Current level of state education funding for state colleges and universities	1	2	3
Current level of state funding for social services, such as senior and disability services	1	2	3

Q15. Do you have landline phone(s) in your household?

☐ Yes, go to question Q15a, Q15b, Q15c

☐ No, go to Q16



Q15a. How many landlines phones are there in the household for personal use only?

Q15b. Do you answer that landline phone when it rings?

All of the time	Most of the time	Some of the time	Rarely or never
1	2	3	4

Q15c. How likely is it that you will get rid of the house phone within the next year and use a cell phone only instead?

Extremely likely	Very likely	Somewhat likely	Not at all likely
1	2	3	4

Q16. Do members of your household use cell phones for personal use only?

☐ Yes, go to question Q16a, Q16b, Q16c, Q16d

☐ No, go to Q17

Q16a. What is the total number of cell phones that are used by members of your household for personal use only? \_\_\_\_\_

Q16b. How many adults in your household use a cell phone? \_\_\_\_\_

Q16c. How many children in your household use a cell phone? \_\_\_\_\_

Q16d. Which of the following common cell phone features do you use? (circle all that apply)

Texting	Making and receiving calls	Internet	Calendar	Alarm clock	GPS	Listening to music	Taking picture or video	Other, please specify: _____
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

Q17. How many years have you lived in Kansas? \_\_\_\_\_ years

Q18. Did you vote in the November 2008 election? (Check the box before your answer)

☐ Yes, go to Q19

☐ No, go to question Q18a

Q18a. Are you registered to vote?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Q19. Do you consider yourself a ...

Strong Republican	Weak Republican	Independent Leaning Republican	Independent	Independent Leaning Democrat	Weak Democrat	Strong Democrat	Other
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8



Q20. What is the highest level of education you have received?

Less than High School	High School Diploma or Equivalency	Some College	Associates or Technical Degree	Bachelors Degree	Masters or Law Degree	Doctoral Degree
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Q21. Are you of Mexican or other Hispanic origin?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Q22. Do you consider yourself:

White	Black or African American	Biracial	Asian	American Indian	Other
1	2	3	4	5	6

Q23. What year were you born? \_\_\_\_\_

Q24. What is your gender?

☐ Male ☐ Female

Q25. What was your total family income for the last year?

Less than \$10,000	Between \$10,000 and \$19,999	Between \$20,000 and \$29,999	Between \$30,000 and \$39,999	Between \$40,000 and \$49,999	Between \$50,000 and \$59,999	Between \$60,000 and \$69,999	\$70,000 and more
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

**Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey.**

**All information will be kept confidential.**

**Please place this questionnaire in the postage-paid envelope provided and drop it in a US Post Office mailbox.**